U.S.: Summit invitation is open

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said Monday President Ronald Reagan believes more meetings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev would be useful and repeated that Mr. Reagan's invitation for a U.S. summit remains open. Spokesman Larry Speakes, commenting on a published report saying the Kremlin has made overtures for another summit, said there had been "no direct suggestions from the Soviets that indicate a desire to follow up on their commitment for a summit in the United States in 1987." But he added: "The president believes additional meetings can build on the major progress already achieved... The president's invitation for a U.S. summit remains open." Mr. Reagan had agreed with Mr. Gorbachev during a 1985 summit in Geneva to meet again in the United States in 1986 and hold a third summit in the Soviet Union in 1987. They did meet last October in Reykjavik, Iceland, for what was then billed as a "mini-summit" to prepare for a fullscale meeting, but their talks collapsed

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published [illegible] Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر باللغة الانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الرأي»

Goulding meets Lebanese leaders

BEIRUT (R) — A top United Nations official on Monday discussed the future of the U.N. Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL) with Prime Minister Rashid Karami and President Amin Gemayel. "I had a very useful meeting with the prime minister. We talked about the renewal of UNIFIL," U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Marrack Goulding told reporters. He described his separate meeting with Mr. Gemayel as "very important." The nine-nation UNIFIL was first deployed in 1978 following an Israeli raid in the south. UNIFIL's current mandate is due for renewal on Jan. 19. The 5,800-strong force has been the target of frequent hit-and-run attacks by guerrillas, and 138 of its troops have died over the past eight years. The figure includes accidental deaths. "I also discussed the general situation in Lebanon, the prospects for national reconciliation and matters related to hostages," Mr. Goulding added.

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King, Queen to start state visit to France on Jan. 12

PARIS (R) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor will make a state visit to France from Jan. 12 to 15, an official statement said Monday. French President Francois Mitterrand made an official visit to Jordan in July 1984.

Egypt to attend Damascus meeting

RIYADH (Petra) — Egypt will take part in a forthcoming meeting of the Arab Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture to be held in Damascus, Chairman of the Egyptian Federation of Chambers of Commerce Izzat Gheidan said on Monday. In a statement to the Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat, Mr. Gheidan said the decision on Egypt's return to the federation was taken at an initiative by Saudi Arabia.

Saudi military team in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — A Saudi military delegation led by an adviser to Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz arrived in Cairo on Sunday for talks with Egyptian officials on military cooperation, Egypt's Middle East News Agency said. It said the visit by the delegation, led by Sheikh Malek Abdul Hafiz Malek, would last for a week, but gave no details. Sheikh Malek's visit is the first known by a Saudi military official to Egypt since diplomatic relations were severed in 1979. Egypt, whose army is the Arab World's second biggest after Iraq's, has repeatedly stated its readiness to help Gulf Arab states fend off any spillover from the Iran-Iraq war.

U.S. and Israel discuss Lavi project

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Assistant Under-Secretary of Defence Dov Zakheim met Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Monday in an attempt to dissuade Israel from continuing the Lavi jet fighter project, a defence ministry official said. The two men discussed U.S. proposals for alternatives to the Lavi, but Mr. Rabin was not expected to give his answer before receiving the approval of the Israeli cabinet, said the official. Mr. Zakheim said before arriving here Sunday that he would propose five alternatives to the Israeli-designed fighter: two versions of the F-16, the F-15, the European-made Harrier vertical take-off and landing jet and the F-18.

MacMillan buried

HORSTED KEYNES, England (AP) — Former Prime Minister Harold MacMillan, who led Britain's Conservative government for nearly seven years, was buried Monday in a quiet country churchyard. Mr. MacMillan, who died Dec. 29, about six weeks before his 93rd birthday, was laid to rest in a family plot at the Saxon church of St. Giles in Horsted Keynes, 50 kilometres south of London, beside his parents, his wife, Lady Dorothy.

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Kuwait is confident of holding OIC summit as planned — Sabah

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah expressed confidence Monday that the Islamic summit scheduled to be held in Kuwait later this month would go ahead as planned.

The summit, set to start on Jan. 26, "will be held in Kuwait at the fixed time... and the quorum will be complete," he told reporters.

His remarks followed some calls for the summit of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be postponed or its venue changed.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspaper Al Ittihad quoted Arab diplomats Monday as saying the conference might be postponed if efforts to persuade Iran and Syria to attend failed.

Tehran is against Kuwait as a site because of its support for Iraq in the war against Iran. Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi has said Iran would prefer Pakistan as a venue.

Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammad Al Osaimi said Monday after talks with Pakistan's ambassador to Kuwait that President Zia Ul Haq would attend the summit in Kuwait.

Sheikh Sabah gave no clue as to whether all OIC heads of state, including those of Syria and Iran, were expected to attend, or whether some might send envoys.

Syria, along with Libya, backs Iran in its six-year-old war with Iraq, and diplomats have reported speculation that their leaders would stay away.

Sheikh Sabah returned Sunday from a whirlwind tour carrying messages from the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The trip was seen by diplomats as a bid to persuade the bitter political and ideological foes to patch up differences and secure their attendance at the summit.

Sheikh Sabah said the foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) would meet in Riyadh on Tuesday to discuss economic cooperation with the European Community (EC).

The talks, which the minister said had been requested by Bahrain, were expected to review preparations for the summit, political sources said.

The GCC also includes Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

The sources said Sheikh Sabah was expected to brief colleagues on his latest diplomatic swing, and the ministers were also likely to review a visit to Morocco last week by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz.

Moroccan newspapers, including two pro-government publications, have called for the summit to be postponed because of rifts in the Islamic World.

Morocco's Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali flew to Riyadh Sunday night after carrying a message from King Hassan to Kuwait's emir, and met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal.

Mr. Filali said Morocco would send a delegation to the summit. But he did not say if King Hassan, who hosted the last summit of the 46-nation OIC in 1984, would attend.

Al Ittihad said Monday Iran had secretly asked for Egypt to be barred from the summit.

Egypt, a strong supporter of Iraq in the Gulf war, was reinstated in the OIC at the last summit in Casablanca after being suspended for signing its 1979 separate peace treaty with Israel.

Iran's Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Ali Mohammad Besharti was reported to have left for Syria on Sunday to discuss the summit. There was no immediate word on his precise objective.

The under-secretary of Kuwait's Foreign Ministry, Suleiman Al Shaheen, returned Monday from Jeddah, the headquarters of the OIC, where he said he discussed summit preparations with OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzadeh.

The OIC official would visit Kuwait next week for talks with Sheikh Sabah, he added.

Israelis rocket Lebanese villages for second day running

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli helicopter gunships attacked villages alleged to contain guerrilla strongholds in South Lebanon for a second straight day Monday after a roadside bomb blast killed four pro-Israel militiamen, police said.

The rocketing and strafing attacks covered the Litani River basin, which runs about 12 kilometres north of the internationally recognised border with the Jewish state, a police report said.

The one-hour operation started at 10 a.m. and covered a nine-kilometre stretch of the Litani basin between the bridges of Khardali and Qaqaieh near the inland market town of Nabatiyeh, a terse police report said.

The raiding gunships fire "several phosphorus rockets that started fires along both ranks of the Litani and heavily strafed the whole region," the report said.

A casualty report from the second Israeli air attack into Lebanon this year was not immediately available, it added.

The attack came five hours after four militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) were killed and six others injured when a roadside bomb went off under their armoured personnel carrier.

The bomb exploded at 5 a.m. near the village of Markaba, about two kilometres north of the border with Israel, police said.

Israeli military sources in Tel Aviv said two of the SLA militiamen were taken by helicopter to an Israeli hospital.

The casualties brought to 19 the number of SLA militiamen killed in attacks by Iranian-backed Shi'ite militiamen against their positions in Israel's self-designated "security zone" over the past four days.

In apparent retaliation for attacks on the SLA, Israeli helicopter gunships on Sunday blasted alleged guerrilla strongholds of the Hizbollah, or party of god, in South Lebanon, killing at least three people and wounding eight.

Police said four gunships staged the Sunday raid against Hizbollah bases in the villages of Khirbat Selim and Qabrikha in the Ghanaian-policed zone of the U.N. Interim Force In Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Pro-Iranian zealots have recently intensified their attacks against the 1,500-strong SLA, which is backed by about 1,000 Israeli troops in the 10-to-16-kilometre "security zone."

The enclave was carved out when Israel withdrew the bulk of its occupation army from Lebanon in 1985.

More than 100 SLA militiamen have been killed since the Israeli pullout in June 1985.

Military sources in the southern port of Tyre told Reuter some 30 Israeli troop carriers and several jeeps moved into hills overlooking the village of Baraachite, while other reinforcements deployed in hills overlooking the villages of Yater and Haddatha.

National gold and currency reserves rise to JD 815m

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) reserves of gold and foreign currency increased to JD 401 million in the year 1986, compared with JD 375 million in 1985, CBJ Governor Hussein Al Qassem announced Monday.

Mr. Qassem said the increase in the CBJ reserves boosted Jordan's overall reserves of gold and hard currency to JD 815 million in 1986 as against JD 781 million in the previous year.

The CBJ governor attributed the increase to an improvement in the Kingdom's balance of trade deficit in the year 1986. He said the improvement in the balance of trade amounted to JD 139 million. Despite a drop in Jordan's exports, Mr. Qassem said, the Kingdom managed to achieve a decline in the deficit in the balance of trade through rationalisation of imports.

He added that imports dropped by JD 190 million in 1986.

Among other indicators showing the positive trend in the Kingdom's balance of trade was the return to normal and natural growth rate of remittances from Jordanian expatriates, Mr. Qassem said. The total amount of expatriate remittances into the country was JD 435 million in 1986 as against JD 403 million in 1985, he said.

The CBJ also posted a profit of JD 28 million in the year, he said. The figure compares with JD 24 million in 1985. The CBJ also registered a net profit of JD 4 million in the year from foreign currency transactions and as a result of revaluation of several foreign currencies.

Reuter adds: Turnover on the Kingdom's official stock exchange, the Amman Financial Market (AFM), rose last year but prices declined, AFM General Manager Hashem Sabbagh said.

"Despite the price fall, the performance was one of the best in the market's nine-year history, thanks to various government steps to revive the economy. We expect the 1986 momentum to continue," he told Reuter.

He expected companies benefitting from export incentives or tariff protection against foreign competition to do better.

Turnover last year totalled JD 69.6 million, up from JD 67 million in 1985 but still less than half the 1983 peak level of JD 141.4 million.

A total of 48.9 million shares were traded last year, 23.7 per cent more than in 1985, and the number of contracts concluded rose 20.7 per cent to 68,362.

The AFM share price index fell 9.2 points, 7.9 per cent.

There were 117 companies listed on the exchange at end-1986, with a combined authorised capital of JD 482.8 million.

O'Connor: Vatican-Israel ties unlikely

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, Cardinal John O'Connor, said Monday that although the Vatican was not hostile towards Israel he did not foresee any imminent establishment of official ties with the Jewish state.

After meeting Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in his residence in Jerusalem on the last day of a five-day visit to Israel, the cardinal said his trip represented a strong gesture of goodwill.

"The Vatican has absolutely no hostility whatsoever towards Israel," he added. He told reporters a main reason for the absence of relations centred on the controversy over the status of Jerusalem, the Holy City Israel claims as its capital.

"The Holy See has some grave concerns and while I'm not an emissary of the Holy See and can't talk officially on such matters, my understanding is that until (it) is satisfied that these concerns can be appropriately resolved, it will maintain its current position," Cardinal O'Connor said.

Cardinal O'Connor was answering questions following reports that he had told Jewish and Christian intellectuals Sunday night that relations between Israel and the Vatican were tied to the Palestinian issue, the status of Jerusalem and "security" for Christians in the Arab World.

Participants at the gathering of intellectuals quoted Cardinal O'Connor as saying that Israeli officials had told him "the Palestinian problem is not a problem and no-one in the Middle East cares about it."

Cardinal O'Connor, according to those who attended the meeting at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, said he had replied that "even if no one cares about it, it is still a problem."

He also said Israel was unwilling to negotiate the status of Jerusalem.

Cardinal O'Connor described his meeting with Mr. Peres as "very friendly" but that their differences on the Palestinian question were not bridged.

The 75-minute meeting between Mr. Peres and the archbishop of New York followed a face-saving agreement reached Sunday between Cardinal O'Connor and Israeli leaders to hold informal meetings at their homes in occupied Jerusalem rather than their offices.

The cardinal had earlier cancelled meetings with Israeli leaders after pressure by the Vatican.

The 66-year-old prelate wore a plain black priest's suit instead of his robes in an apparent effort to stress the informality of the meeting with Mr. Peres.

Both said they discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict but refused to elaborate. Cardinal O'Connor said Mr. Peres and other Israeli leaders with whom he discussed the Palestinian issue offered "a very understanding response, but this doesn't mean there's agreement."

Later Tuesday Cardinal O'Connor left for Rome.

Addressing an airport news conference before flying to Rome, the cardinal said the key to peace in the region was resolution of the Palestinian problem by Israel and the Arab World.

Reagan undergoes 'routine' surgery

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan underwent what was described as "very routine" prostate surgery at Bethesda naval hospital on Monday, and his doctor said afterwards a preliminary examination "shows no suspicion of cancer."

The operation, to relieve what a spokesman described as "mild, recurring discomfort," was performed following a weekend physical examination that found no new evidence of colon cancer, which Mr. Reagan suffered in July 1985.

Colonel John Hutton, the presidential physician, issued a brief statement after surgery saying the operation "began at 8:15 (1315 GMT) and took about an hour. It was a very routine transurethral resection.

"The procedure went very smoothly. There was nothing out of the ordinary."

White House spokesman Larry Speakes also said a laboratory analysis of four small polyps removed from Mr. Reagan's colon on Sunday confirmed that the growths were benign.

Speakes told reporters that final laboratory results on the excised tissue would not be available until Tuesday.

Medical experts said there was a 10 per cent chance that doctors would find cancerous cells in the tissue removed from Mr. Reagan's urinary tract.

"Even if he were to have prostate cancer that required further treatment, the treatment for a man his age is fairly benign and not incapacitating," said Dr. Roger Weiderhorn, a Washington urologist.

During Monday's operation a team of doctors from Minnesota's world-acclaimed Mayo Clinic cut away pieces of Mr. Reagan's enlarged prostate gland to alleviate urinary discomfort.

The operation is considered almost routine.

Mr. Reagan had a similar operation in 1967.

Speakes said Mr. Reagan, 75 was awake during the prostate surgery, being performed under a spinal anesthetic that numbs the lower region of the body without rendering the patient unconscious.

Israeli naval siege lifted

BEIRUT (AP) — A passenger-laden ferry has docked in the port of Jounieh, the first to travel to Lebanon's rightist enclave since an Israeli frigate intercepted the vessel last week.

The Sunny Boat docked Sunday carrying 150 passengers from Larnaca, Cyprus, immigration officials said. Its sister vessel, the Empress, arrived in Larnaca from Jounieh with 600 passengers.

A government official said Monday that the Israeli blockade, imposed Friday, was lifted following "intensified diplomatic contacts with the governments of Cyprus and the United States."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Amin Gemayel on Saturday asked the United States to "exert pressure on Israel" to lift the blockade, said an official source, speaking on condition of not being identified further.

The request was made during a meeting at the suburban Baabda presidential palace between Mr. Gemayel and U.S. Ambassador John Kelly.

An Israeli frigate intercepted the Sunny Boat off the Lebanese coast on Friday while it was steaming from Larnaca to Jounieh.

Captain Dimitris Vrakas, skipper of the 3,782-tonne ship, said the Israeli frigate told him by radio that the Larnaca-Jounieh line was banned "from today."

The maritime line is the only safe link connecting the 1,000-square-kilometre mostly Christian enclave with the outside world.

Kohl remark sparks row

BONN (R) — A political row erupted in West Germany Monday over an allegation by Chancellor Helmut Kohl that East Germany has concentration camps for political prisoners.

East Germany rejected the assertion, which Dr. Kohl made at a rally of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in Dortmund.

"We must never forget... that the political regime is holding 2,000 of our fellow countrymen over there in East Germany as political prisoners in prisons and concentration camps," Dr. Kohl said.

Opposition Social Democrats (SPD) and Greens condemned the claim as an attempt to win votes from right-wing nationalists by comparing East Berlin's communist leaders to Nazis.

The liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) in Dr. Kohl's centre-right coalition said the remark could seriously harm ties with East Germany and urged Dr. Kohl to withdraw it.

"The election campaign... is not a tribunal for associating foreign governments or the other German state with our Nazi past," FDP parliamentarian Uwe Ronneburger said in a statement.

Senior CDU officials and government spokesman Friedhelm Ost defended Dr. Kohl, with Ost telling a news conference that the term concentration camp pre-dated the Nazi era and was commonly used by East German political prisoners themselves.

Envoys brief Aquino on successful talks with MNLF

MANILA (R) — President Corazon Aquino on Monday heard reports from negotiators who brought back from talks in Saudi Arabia the possibility of a permanent end to a bitter Muslim separatist war in the southern Philippines.

After meeting Mrs. Aquino, chief government envoy Aquilino Pimentel told reporters the president expressed satisfaction that secession and independence had been shelved and that future talks, within Philippine territory, would deal with the issue of autonomy.

He said the president would convene a special committee of senior cabinet ministers on Tuesday to discuss how much of the southern island of Mindanao might be considered for eventual autonomy.

Mr. Pimentel told a news conference earlier: "The MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) has consented to discuss the possibility of autonomy for Mindanao instead of secession or independence."

A four-man government panel met in Jeddah with the MNLF, largest of the Muslim separatist groups. Its leader, Nur Misuari, had previously insisted on independence for Mindanao, Palawan, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and the Sulu Islands.

"In the process for peace we have started, neither the government nor the MNLF can claim victory. It is a victory for the Filipino people," Mr. Pimentel said.

The MNLF, which the military says has at least 10,000 armed followers, launched a war for independence 14 years ago, which at its peak in 1972-1976 killed an estimated 50,000 people. A ceasefire has been in force since September.

Shevardnadze and Dobrynin on 'working visit' to Kabul

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Communist Party Foreign Affairs Secretary Anatoly F. Dobrynin went to Afghanistan on Monday for a visit that followed the announcement of the Kabul government's proposed six-month ceasefire.

TASS, the official Soviet news agency, said the Soviet officials had arrived in Kabul for a "working visit."

On Saturday, the Afghan Revolutionary Council formally approved the ruling Marxist Party's proposal for a ceasefire beginning Jan. 15. That plan had been announced last Thursday by Mr. Najibullah.

The announcement said the ceasefire would be in effect until July 15 and could be extended, provided the Afghan rebels went along with it and agreed to stop importing and deploying weapons.

Western estimates say the Soviet Union has 115,000 soldiers in Afghanistan, helping the Kabul government fight an eight-year-old civil war.

Both nations have said they want the Soviet troops to leave, but first want guarantees from the United States and Pakistan that support for the rebel forces will end.

The ceasefire plan, strongly supported by Moscow, includes an offer by Mr. Najibullah to include opposition groups in a coalition government of national unity.

The Soviet Union has signalled recently that it wants an end to the fighting which has raged since Moscow's military intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979, but it says U.S. and Pakistani aid to the rebels must first stop.

Ambush, kidnap and shootouts add to Beirut misery

BEIRUT (R) — Killings, kidnaps and gunfights raised tension in Beirut on Monday, compounding the misery of citizens beset by a collapsing currency and unexplained shortages of bread, petrol and power.

In west Beirut, police said gunmen kidnapped a prominent Lebanese businessmen (See page 2). Militias blocked the main coast road south to prevent a possible revenge bid by relatives of two murdered fighters.

In east Beirut, security sources said Lebanese army troops clashed with supporters of President Amin Gemayel.

They fired assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades in the Dora shopping district, wounding at least eight people. The shooting began after an army troop carrier collided with a car belonging to one of Mr. Gemayel's armed followers.

Sunday night gunmen in a speeding car shot dead two men standing by a coffee vendor's van in west Beirut's seafront Ramlet Al Baida district. Police said Ahmad Jaber, 30, and Mohammad Haidar, 20, died instantly in a hail of bullets.

"This is no longer a country, even a jungle is better than west Beirut," said Amal Zeidan, 25, who watched the shooting in horror from her apartment balcony.

The Shi'ite Amal militia and the Druze-led Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) closed the 40-kilometre coast road to the southern port of Sidon for the second day running.

Police said the move was to stop any attempt to avenge the deaths of two PSP militiamen ambushed in the Amal-controlled district of Ouzai in southern Beirut on Saturday.

"At least 300 cars are backed up in Ouzai behind an Amal checkpoint," one driver from the south told Reuters after managing to talk his way through the militia controls.

"The PSP had an armoured troop carrier across the road at Jiyeh (25 kilometres south of Beirut) to prevent people from the south and the Shouf Mountains reaching Beirut," he said.

The PSP and Amal say they are bound by an "alliance of blood" against Israel and right-wing forces, although they have clashed frequently on the streets of west Beirut.

Amal resents the presence of Palestinian fighters in the PSP-controlled Aley hills southeast of the capital.

Beirut radio stations and PSP leader Walid Junblatt and Amal leader Nabih Berri were in Damascus, where they met Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam together on Sunday.

The latest tension was another burden for Beirut citizens weighed down by economic problems and a mounting crime wave.

"It seems as if we always have to worry about one thing or another in this country," said housewife Siran Yassin. "If it's not street fighting or shelling, it's power or water cuts, shortages of bread or fuel. We get no peace."

People have been queueing for hours at bakeries over the past week after a mystery bread shortage hit both sectors of the city. Economy Minister Victor Kassir told reporters last week that sufficient flour was being produced, but supplies were "vanishing like magic."

In west Beirut, long lines have also formed at petrol stations, where trigger-happy guards supervise distribution.

Many Lebanese face impoverishment because of an explosion in prices sparked by the collapse of the Lebanese pound, now worth 85 to the dollar compared to 18 a year ago.

"Maybe one day we will be told to pay for the air we breathe," Ms. Yassin lamented.

Qadhafi: Libya sent hundreds of troops in Chad rescue bid

PARIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said in an interview published Monday that Libya has dispatched "a few hundred" soldiers to northern Chad aiming to rescue a group of technicians believed held prisoners there.

He told the French-wing daily Liberation that the troops had been sent to surround an area where some 20 technicians were thought to be held. He was prepared to use force if necessary to free them, he said.

Libya has prveiously denied having any troops in Chad or taking part in fighting between the forces of President Hissene Habre and rebels in the Libyan-backed Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT), led by Acheikh Ibn Oumar.

Also involved in the Chad conflict are forces loyal to former GUNT leader Goukouni Oueddei, who changed sides last October to join pro-Habre forces, in the latest switch to Chad's 20-year- civil strife.

Mr. Oueddei himself was "under Libyan guard" in Tripoli but not a prisoner, Col. Qadhafi told the newspaper.

The interview was given last Thursday and at the weekend Chad accused Libya of launching air raids on targets in the north and south of the central African country, in an escalation of the civil war.

On Saturday, the Chad Military Command said Libyan planes bombed the towns of Faya and Zouar in the north after government troops recaptured them.

On Sunday, Chad said Libya staged an air raid south of the 16th parallel, the so-called "red line" dividing Chad into a Libyan and rebel-controlled north and the south held by forces loyal to Mr. Habre.

A military statement said four Soviet-made MiG fighter planes raided Arada. Official sources said one aircraft also dropped a bomb on Oum Chalouba, site of a major government base.

The sources said one person was killed and five people, four of them women, were injured in the Arada bombing. Several houses were also burnt.

The raids were the first reported south of the 16th parallel since France accused Libya of having made another raid on the airport in the capital, N'Djamena, last February. Libya said Chadian rebels carried out the attack.

The reported weekend air raids, promptly denied by Tripoli, appeared to be the most serious military action south of the 16th parallel since France halted an offensive by Libyan-backed rebels in 1983, and they put increased pressure on France to intervene in the north.

France has about 1,200 military men and Jaguar aircraft in the southern part of its former colony.

Col. Qadhafi told Liberation that forces loyal to former rebel Goukouni Oueddei, now rallied to the side of Mr. Habre, had kidnapped Libyan technicians cooperating with the GUNT, after reports that Mr. Oueddei had been wounded and was a prisoner in Libya.

He denied that Mr. Oueddei was a prisoner but said he had been placed under Libyan guard in Tripoli for his own safety.

"He is still under Libyan guard but free to meet people, to communicate with Tibesti (Oueddei's mountain desert stronghold in northern Chad) or with Paris," Col. Qadhafi said.

Mr. Oueddei had not been wounded, he said, but had been operated on for appendicitis "or something like this."

He said media reports of Libyan intervention in Chad would not stop his troops from pursuing their action until they had freed the technicians held there.

"I want to save them rapidly and by peaceful means. But if it is necessary to use force, I will not hesitate," he said.

Col. Qadhafi said Mr. Habre wanted to push France into a confrontation with Libya and he called on France to take care of its domestic problems.

But he said if French and U.S. involvement increased and if Mr. Habre's troops crossed north of the 16th parallel, Libya would come to the aid of GUNT leader Oumar.

Libyan television said Sunday night the French ambassador in Tripoli had received an urgent message from the government there, while the Libyan News Agency JANA accused France of "blatant intervention" in Chad.

Chadian government sources said authorities here believe the raid on civilians in Arada was a provocation to France, while a Defence Ministry spokesman in Paris said France was evaluating the consequences of raids on Arada and Oum Chalouba, another town south of the red line.

France would decide whether the latest Libyan raids amounted to "a clear will to escalate the conflict" or a means for Libya "to save face" after it lost the key northern oasis town of Fada on Friday, the French Defence Ministry spokesman said.

Chad's government has reported substantial successes, saying that large numbers of Libyans have been killed, important quantities of military equipment seized and the Tibesti town of Zouar recaptured.

Libya denies any role in the fighting and there has been no independent confirmation of the reported Chadian successes.

The Chadian government sources said Mr. Habre would use the raids south of the parallel as a means of stepping up pressure on France to aid him to drive Libya out of Chad's desert north.

In Paris, French Budget Minister Alain Juppe said in a radio interview France might consider a warning strike against Libyan positions in northern Chad.

Military analysts said the United States would be keen to see France take on a more offensive role against Libya in its former colony.

The red line was drawn across the poverty-stricken central African nation in 1983 when French and Chadian forces blocked a Libyan-backed rebel offensive.

Head of Dar Al Handasa kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Four car-borne gunmen kidnapped the Lebanese Christian director of a big engineering consultancy company in Muslim-controlled west Beirut Monday, police said.

The kidnappers, in a white Mercedes Saloon, intercepted Saba Daoud Abdo, 56, in rush-hour traffic as he drove to work in his Peugeot car, they added.

Saba, director-general of the Beirut-based Dar Al Handasa, a large engineering consultancy, is one of the company's 23 partners. He is a Christian Lebanese of Palestinian origin.

Dar Al Handasa issued a statement threatening to close its Beirut offices and dismiss all its employees if Saba was not freed by 4.00 p.m. (1600 GMT) Monday.

Saba was at least the third Christian Lebanese-Palestinian to be seized in west Beirut in the past month.

Two others, a jeweller and a merchant, were freed shortly after their kidnappings in December. it was not known if any ransom was paid for their release.

Police could not say whether Saba's abduction had a political or sectarian motive.

Scores of people have been kidnapped during the last three months of fighting between Palestinians and Shi'ite Muslim militiamen at refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

Dar Al Handasa has some 400 employees at its west Beirut branch and almost 2,000 in branches elsewhere in the Middle East. Local employees blocked the main Verdun Road outside the company premises to protest at Saba's kidnapping.

"We don't know whether blocking roads or staging sit-ins will help release our friend," said Engineer Fouad Fayad. "We have to do it anyway because it is the only way for our voices to be heard in this country."

Another Dar Al Handasa engineer, Arab Nasser, said of the kidnapping: "Such sabotage activities are aimed at breaking down the institutions in Beirut and emptying the country of its leading companies."

Iranian mediator witnesses plight of Palestinians in Rashidiyeh camp

RASHIDIYEH, Lebanon (R) — A Muslim cleric told of children eating paper thinking it was bread, while tears welled in another's eyes at the sight of hungry Palestinians in this bullet-scarred South Lebanon shanty town.

Rashidiyeh, a town of 22,000 people caught in Lebanon's "camps war" which has killed 700 people, is under siege by Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen determined to stop the Palestinians regaining the power they had in South Lebanon before Israel's 1982 invasion.

On Saturday, a relief convoy of five small trucks and four Red Cross ambulances entered Rashidiyeh — only the second allowed into the camp since Amal clamped its blockade on Sept. 30.

Journalists have also been allowed a five-hour visit to Rashidiyeh.

Muharram Al Arifi, a Lebanese Muslim fundamentalist cleric, described the refugees' plight as tragic.

"Hungry children began to eat paper imagining it was bread," he said, indicating they were hallucinating.

Tears welled in the eyes of Iranian clergyman Sheikh Issa Tabatabai, who is at Rashidiyeh as a mediator, as he watched hungry women and children uproot vegetation from a field bordering the shanty town.

"It's a tragedy," the grey-bearded Tabatabai muttered. "You see, they are grazing like sheep."

Fifteen-year-old Mohammad Ahmad, who has missed three months of school, explained: "Sniper fire stopped us from reaching this area before."

Iranian mediators organised both relief convoys. The latest came after Amal chief Nabih Berri promised a New Year truce and supplies for Rashidiyeh in a bid to stem the fighting.

Tabatabai and Arifi arrived in Rashidiyeh on Dec. 10 and said they planned to stay until the siege was lifted.

"I am sharing the refugees' calamities," Tabatabai told Reuters. "I came by decision of the Islamic Republic (of Iran) and I leave by decision from the same source."

The convoy, led by an Iranian embassy car, was met by banner-waving Palestinians demanding an end to the blockade.

When the trucks unloaded at local store, scores of refugees protested at the amounts delivered, saying: "It's not enough. Our martyrs' blood is worth more than this."

Women wailed over the bodies of two Palestinian fighters brought into the camp by the Red Cross ambulances. "They were killed when they tried to infiltrate Amal lines," one said.

Refugees said sorties through the lines had helped them survive.

"Our brothers infiltrated Amal positions and came back with supplies many times," said Youssef, 25, his face swathed in a chequered guerrilla headscarf.

But police in the nearby city of Tyre said they had often seen inflatable dinghies reaching the seafront camp. "Obviously they were carrying arms and supplies," said one police source.

Amal want Rashidiyeh's defenders to surrender their weapons.

Rashidiyeh suffers no fresh water shortage as Tyre's main supply passes through the camp. Supplies to the mainly Shi'ite port city have been disrupted and water company technicians who accompanied the convoy were unable to restore them.

Camp medical facilities consist of two dispensaries where Rashidiyeh's surgeons carry out simple operations.

After lengthy negotiations with Amal, the Red Cross was able to evacuate 80 refugees, including sick, wounded or pregnant women, as well as children and old men.

One of the women, 27-year-old Khoula Ahmad Bandar, said she had named her newly born daughter Azzab — Arabic for "agony."

Her husband, who had both legs blown off by a shell, stayed behind in the camp.

Layla Ahmad Musa, 20, said she was leaving to try to get an artificial limb to replace her leg, also torn off by a shell.

At Rashidiyeh's badly-damaged mosque, Palestinian notables met Iranian mediators and representatives of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) militia to discuss peace moves.

"We have asked Amal to draw a line between humanitarian moves and a political solution (to its conflict with the Palestinians)," Mohammad Hassan Satari, the Iranian embassy's political counsellor, told Reuters.

With so much blood shed on both sides, hatred runs deep. Iranian, Libyan and Syrian efforts to mediate a lasting ceasefire have yet to bear fruit.

Bullets were already whining through the night air as the convoy drove out of Rashidiyeh. Witnesses said one ambulance was hit and a relief worker was wounded.

Lebanese turmoil helps fill Cyprus prison

By Katherine McElroy
Reuters

NICOSIA — Almost a third of the inmates at Cyprus' central prison are foreigners, and the number is rising with almost weekly arrests of drug traffickers passing through the island's ports and airports.

"We're not in a position to accommodate so many foreigners," says prison director Iacovos Iacovides.

At the end of November the prison held 155 Cypriots and 67 foreigners, mostly of Middle Eastern origin and many Lebanese. Ten more foreigners were arrested in December, all on drugs charges.

Language is a problem. Only one of the prison staff speaks Arabic — and this makes it difficult to let Arabic-speaking prisoners telephone home when exceptionally allowed to.

"If a Lebanese is worried about his family after a battle in Lebanon, we would allow a call," Iacovides said. "But to monitor many calls we would need Arabic speakers, whom we cannot provide at the moment."

The foreign prisoners, too have problems.

Unlike Cypriots who are allowed to work outside when they are near the end of their jail terms, foreigners are kept inside because they have no work permits.

They earn a token "bonus" from volunteering for duty in the prison garden and kitchens or in its various workshops. But, said one prisoner, it could take three days' work to afford a packet of cigarettes.

Iacovides said prisoners sometimes received cigarettes seized by customs men as well as money from a prison fund.

Foreign detainees also complained of a lack of visitors when reporters recently toured the prison.

Few families can visit from abroad. "But when they do come, they are allowed to visit daily," Iacovides said.

"Most Lebanese are here because of the dirty war in Lebanon. They destroyed our economy. We have to survive," said one convicted on drugs charges. "After 10 years of war no-one cares anymore. We have no other choice."

Libyan leader inspects coastal fortifications

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Col. Muammar Qadhafi watched soldiers planting mines, laying barbed wire and digging trenches to fortify Libya's coast, Libyan television reported.

The state-run television said the operation was aimed at turning the coast into an "armed fortress."

The report, monitored Sunday by the British Broadcasting Corp., did not say when the Libyan leader made the inspection nor what part of the coast he visited.

Earlier, Libyan Radio said the government had ordered all demobilised soldiers to rejoin their units immediately.

It quoted an announcement from the Armed Forces General Command as saying all those who failed to obey the order would be "legally brought to account and their demobilisation cancelled."

The Libyan News Agency JANA has reported that the fortification operaton is aimed at "turning this coast, from east to west, into an advanced line of death at any time and moment to respond (to) and deter any aggression attempt."

Egypt wants better U.S. offer on debts

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak said Monday he is not satisfied with President Ronald Reagan's suggestions to ease the burden of Egypt's $4.5 billion in military debts to the United States.

"I have received an answer, but part of the answer is positive and part of it I do not like," Mr. Mubarak told reporters after receiving credentials of new ambassadors from the Philippines, Turkey, Burundi and Malaysia.

"I have sent him my answer," Mr. Mubarak added without elaborating.

Government sources said, however, that Mr. Mubarak's reply was "basically no." They said the Egyptian president asked Mr. Reagan to come up with a better offer.

The American proposal would let Egypt refinance loans at 7.4 per cent, a sharp reduction from the original rates of 11 to 13 per cent charged in the 1970s.

The savings with interest would be due in the year 2009, however, and some Egyptian economists have said that just as Egypt cannot afford to pay back the interest due on its debts now, it will be equally unable postpone the payments for 20 years.

Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state, is expected to discuss the issue further when he comes to Cairo in the next few days.

All U.S. military aid to Egypt since 1984 has been as grants. The United States replaced the Soviet Union in the early 1970s as Egypt's main military supplier, but in the early years of the relationship most aid was in the form of sales.

Egypt is one of the biggest Third World debtors. It owes about $36 billion including the military debt. Cairo has been negotiating for several months with the International Monetary Fund for a loan to help it pay interest on some of its debts.

Chad lifts press censorship

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad Monday lifted censorship of articles written by foreign journalists covering its escalating civil war.

Information Minister Momine Hamidj announced that from Monday "control of information," which he said had been introduced last month "to prevent the sensational," would no longer apply.

He added that he hoped the ending of censorship would encourage journalists to come to the Central African nation to "help the Chadian people free themselves."

In a statement, he urged reporters to be objective and responsible and to inform public opinion on "Libya's annexationist ambitions" and what he termed its genocide conducted against Chadian civilians.

Chad's civil war has recently escalated with reports of heavy fighting between former Chadian rebels and Libyan soldiers in the northern Tibesti Mountains.

King Fahd to pay 1st state visit to U.K. in March

RIYADH (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will pay a four-day state visit to Britain from March 24, his first since he assumed power in June 1982.

A royal court announcement Monday, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, said the visit is at the invitation of Queen Elizabeth. It was also announced in London.

The queen and her husband Prince Philip visited Saudi Arabia in February 1979.

King Fahd's trip, which has been planned for several months, follows a period of Arab disillusionment with the West over secret U.S. arms deals with Iran and lack of progress in efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Arab diplomats in the region said they believed the Saudi monarch's talks in Britain would centre on the Middle East crisis and the Iran-Iraq war, and the role London could play in resolving the two conflicts.

Ties between Riyadh and London appeared strained last year by the publication in October of a confidential letter by a retired British ambassador critical of Saudi Arabia and the deportation from the kingdom of a number of British nurses for illegal drinking.

The issues were all but ignored by Riyadh and London, however, and a planned visit in November by the heir to the British throne Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana to the kingdom went ahead as scheduled.

In 1980, Saudi Arabia briefly cut trading and political ties with Britain in protest at the screening of a television film about the public execution of a Saudi princess and her lover.

But relations have since blossomed and in 1985 Saudi Arabia provided Britain with its biggest arms export order, a £5-billion ($7.2 billion) deal for the purchase of 132 warplanes, including 72 Tornado fighters.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran
15:50 ..... Programme review
15:55 ..... Cartoons
16:25 ..... Children programmes
18:00 ..... Religious programme (Fatawa)
18:30 ..... Arabic series
19:20 ..... Programme on public safety
19:50 ..... Programme review
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Arabic series
21:20 ..... Tomorrow's programme
21:35 ..... Law and the Society
22:15 ..... Songs from the movies
23:00 ..... News summary in Arabic
23:10 ..... Arabic play

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Lucien Leuweh
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15 ..... Varieties
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew
19:45 ..... Economics Male Easy
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Varieties
21:30 ..... Yes, Prime Minister
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 ..... The Fourth Arm

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW
773111-19

07:00 ..... Light Music
07:30 ..... News Desk
08:00 ..... Morning Show
10:00 ..... News Summary
10:05 ..... Morning Show Contd.
11:00 ..... Oriental Foods
11:15 ..... Your Health
11:30 ..... Morning Show
12:00 ..... News Summry
12:05 ..... Readings
12:30 ..... Pop Session
13:00 ..... News Summary
13:05 ..... Pop Session Contd.
14:00 ..... News Bulletin
14:10 ..... Instrumentals
14:30 ..... Now Music
15:00 ..... Concert Hour
16:00 ..... News Summary
16:05 ..... Instrumentals, Old Favourites
17:00 ..... Science Report
17:30 ..... Pop Session
18:00 ..... News Summary
18:05 ..... Top Twenty
19:00 ..... Newsdesk
19:30 ..... Date with a Star
20:00 ..... Evening Show
21:00 ..... News Summary
21:05 ..... Evening Show Contd.
21:55 ..... News Summary
22:00 ..... Evening Show Contd.
23:00 ..... News Summary
23:05 ..... Evening Show Contd.
23:57 ..... News Headlines
24:00 ..... Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk **06:30** The Music of Weber **06:45** Reflections **06:50** Financial News **07:00** World News **07:09** 24 Hours: News Summary **07:30** New Ideas **07:40** Book Choice **07:45** The World Today **08:00** Newsdesk **08:30** Rock Salad **09:00** World News **09:09** 24 Hours: News Summary **09:30** Computer World **09:45** Network UK **10:00** World News **10:09** Reflections **10:15** Hard Knocks **10:30** After Berlioz **11:00** World News **11:09** British Press Review **11:15** The World Today **11:30**. Financial News: Look Ahead **11:45** Sounds of the Sixties **12:00** News Summary; Discovery **12:30** Play: Runyon's Guys and Dolls **13:00** World News **13:09** News about Britain **13:15** Waveguide **13:25** A Letter from Scotland **13:30** Sports International **14:00** Radio Newsreel **14:15** The Multitrack **14:35** Personal Story **14:45** Sports Round-up **15:00** World News **15:09** 24 Hours: News Summary **15:30** Network UK **15:45** Recording of the Week **16:00** Outlook **16:45** The Music of Weber **17:00** Radio Newsreel **17:15** A Jolly Good Show **17:30** The Random Jottings of Hinge and Brackett **18:00** World News **18:09** Commentary **18:15** Omnibus **18:45** The World Today **19:00** World News **19:09** A Letter from Scotland **19:15** Meridian **19:45** Sports Round-up **20:00** Newsdesk **20:30** Development '87 **20:40** The Farming World **21:00** News Summary; Outlook **21:39** Stock Market Report **22:00** World News

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9365, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz

05:00 News **05:10** Newsline **05:30** VOA Morning **06:00** News **06:10** Newsline **06:30** VOA Morning **07:00** News **07:10** Newsline **07:30** VOA Morning **08:00** News **08:10** Newsline **08:30** VOA Morning **09:00** News **09:10** Newsline **09:30** VOA Morning **09:57** News Summary **17:00** News **17:10** Newsline **17:30** Music USA **18:00** News **18:10** Focus **18:30** Special English News & Features **19:00** News **19:10** Newsline **19:30** Magazine Show **20:00** News **20:10** Focus **20:30** Special English News & Features **21:00** News **21:10** Newsline **21:30** Music USA **22:00** ews & Editorial **22:15** Music USA Jazz **23:00** News **23:10** World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of architectural paintings of Iraq Al Amir by Francois Larche and Jean-Pierre Lange at the Architecture Gallery — Rey. 1 Centre, Jabal Amman (until Jan. 10).

* A painting exhibition entitled: "On the Banks of Jordan" at the Jordan National Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh (until Jan. 23).

* An exhibition of paintings by Moroccan artist Mehdi Qotbi at the Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, First Circle (until Jan. 7).

* An exhibition of photographs entitled "La Villette" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 29).

VIDEO

* "Courbet" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

THE ABC NEWS

* The ABC News at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661026/7
American Centre 644371
American Centre Library 641520
British Council 636147-8
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Haya Arts Centre 645195
Hussein Youth City 647181/86
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library ... 637111
University of Jordan Library 843555.

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10.00 a.m. 4.00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1.30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Ammon Hotel, 7.30 p.m.
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2.00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.
Terrasanta Church (Roman Catholic), Jabal Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel: 622366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678906.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (International, Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 606974.

PRAYER TIMES

05:10 ..... Fajr
06:34 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
11.41 ..... Dhuhr
14:28 ..... 'Asr
16:49 ..... Maghreb
18:13 ..... 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS: ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

05:45 . Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
09:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)
09:25 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 ..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
17:35 ..... New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:50 ..... Paris, Brussels (RJ)
18:05 ..... Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25 ..... Rome (RJ) (add.)
19:35 ..... Athens, Istanbul (RJ)
19:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ)
19:45 ..... Rome (RJ)
20:15 ..... Rome (RJ) (add.)
22:45 ..... Rome (RJ) (add.)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

11:35 ..... Cairo (MS)
12:55 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
13:30 ..... Moscow (SU)
13:45 ..... Kuwait (KU)
15:10 ..... Riyadh (SV)
19:55 ..... Rome, Damascus (AZ)
20:00 ..... Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
21:00 ..... Frankfurt (LH)
22:30 ..... Baghdad (IA)

DEPARTURES: ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
10:00 ..... Rome (RJ) (add.)
10:45 ..... Rome (RJ)
11:00 ..... Tripoli (RJ)
11:00 ..... Rome (RJ) (add.)
11:00 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 ..... Athens (RJ)
11:45 ..... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 ..... Belgrade, London (RJ)
13:00 ..... Istanbul, Rome (RJ) (add.)
20:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15 ..... Cairo (RJ)
21:15 ..... Damascus (RJ)
21:30 ..... Kuwait (RJ)
22:00 ..... Bangkok (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

08:30 ..... Beirut (ME)
12:20 ..... Cairo (MS)
14:00 ..... Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00 ..... Kuwait (KU)
15:00 ..... Moscow (SU)
16:40 ..... Riyadh (SV)
23:30 ..... Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (IA)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

— Kota Raga

Amin Kawar and Sons Company, with its new offices in Shmeisani, at your service, tel: 603703/15.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A depression lies over Cyprus. As a result of a polar continental air mass affecting our area, the weather will be cloudy with strong north-westerly winds and thunder showers. In Aqaba, the wind will be southerly fresh and rough seas.

Amman	2/ 7
Aqaba	12/18
Deserts	3/12
Jordan Valley	10/19

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Monday rates
Local selling rates in fils

Belgian franc	84.9/	85.8
Dutch guilder	156.5/	158.2
French franc	53.4/	54
Italian lira	25.4/	25.6
Japanese yen (for 100)	214.3/	216.6
Swedish crown	50.4/	50.9
Swiss franc	210/	212.8
U.K. sterling pound	503.4/	509.8
U.S. dollar	340.7/	343.4
W. German mark	176.8/	178.8

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate	891228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Irbid	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Quweismeh	770733
Civil Defence Deir Alla	57306
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896390/1
Electric Power Co.	636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771125/8
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08)53330/60

HOSPITALS

Husein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amman	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845/65
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Bahjat Bader	895362
Dr. Mahmoud Allan	894866
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Sahab pharmacy	668056
Neirouki pharmacy	623672
Firas pharmacy	661912
Himawi pharmacy	845376
Khalaf pharmacy	778653

TAXIS:

Kayyali taxi	666030
Tuzina taxi	644660
Tamer taxi	666417
Amman taxi	842474
Raghdan taxi	842400
Raqab taxi	736428
Sayel taxi	776131

IRBID:

Dr. Fadeyeh Jbour	(—)
Bashar pharmacy	(—)
Anas pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Rateb Atallah	985238
Ra'fah pharmacy	(—)

GENERAL

Jordan Television	77311/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (double red and starken)	280/240		Eggplant (large)	160/120
Apple (golden)	280/240		Garlic	600/550
Apple (green)	450/400		Grapefruit	120/ 80
Banana	300/260		Lemon	90/ 60
Banana (Mukammar)	250/220		Marrow	160/120
Beans	220/180		Onion (dry)	180/140
Beetroot	120/ 80		Onion (green)	200/160
Cabbage	70/ 50		Orange (Abu Surra)	240/200
Carrot (black)	150/120		Orange (Shammouti)	200/160
Carrot (yellow)	120/ 80		Pepper (hot)	280/240
Cauliflower	80/ 50		Pepper (sweet)	400/300
Chestnut	700/650		Potato (imported)	200/150
Cucumbers	400/350		Potato (local)	230/180
Eggplant (small)	230/180		Spinach	150/120
			Tomatoes	220/160
			Turnip	120/ 80

NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen to visit girls' training centre today

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will today pay an inspection visit to the girls' vocation training centre in Marka where she will examine the training programmes offered by the centre. Her Majesty will review the training opportunities available to Jordanian families and prospects of involving them in women's prequalification projects as part of national development. On Wednesday, Queen Noor will chair a meeting at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation to discuss training programmes for women and local community development.

Admin committee gets 3 new members

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the appointment of Interior Minister Rajai Dajani, Planning Minister Taher Kanaan and the Prime Ministry's economic advisor Fayez Al Tarawneh as members of the Royal Committee for Administrative Development.

Rifai, mayor discuss Amman council

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai received Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh on Monday to discuss issues pertaining to the newly-established Greater Amman Municipal Council and means of improving and developing municipal services in the areas covered by the new municipality. Mr. Rawabdeh expressed appreciation and gratitude to the government for approving the formation of the Greater Amman Municipal Council and he expressed his hope that the council would be able to crystallise its working plan and provide the best services to citizens served by Amman Municipality.

Firms to prepare mosque designs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and a consortium of local and Arab engineering offices on Monday signed an agreement for studies and design work on stage II of the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Mosque project. The JD 65,000 agreement entails preparing drawings for decoration work and for installing sound equipment. It also includes a study for a new minaret, radio and television studio and audiovisual equipment. The agreement was signed by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and representatives of the engineering offices.

Team prepares for investment seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee preparing for an investment seminar scheduled to be held in Kuwait next month held a meeting on Monday to discuss the projects which will be introduced to potential Kuwaiti investors. The meeting was chaired by Minister of Supply, Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher in the presence of Finance Minister Hanna Odeh. The event aims to brief Kuwaiti investors on investment opportunities in Jordan in the agricultural, industrial and tourism sectors.

Ambassador meets Omani ministers

MUSCAT (Petra) — Jordanian Ambassador to Oman Nayef Al Hadid on Monday held talks with the Omani ministers of education, youth and postal services and communications to review Jordanian-Omani cooperation in education and telecommunications.

Department forecasts snow in hilly areas

AMMAN (Petra) — The country will be affected by a very cold air mass accompanying a depression which is currently centred west of Cyprus and moving slowly to the south easterly region, Director General of the Meteorology Department Ali Abanda said on Monday. Dr. Abanda said the first cold air mass will result in strong winds and rainfall, starting in the western and northern areas but spreading gradually to all parts of the country. Dr. Abanda added that a sharp drop in temperature and snow fall on areas over 800 metres high was expected.

Koran students receive prizes

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat on Monday presented winners of a contest for students of the Koran with their prizes. The contest was organised by the ministry on the occasion of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday which was celebrated on Nov. 13. The five winners will take part in an international contest for students of the Koran, due to be held in the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Jan. 14.

Ibn Tarif appointed to tourism company

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to appoint Ministry of Communications Under Secretary Mansour Ibn Tarif as government representative to the Jordanian company for tourism and mineral resources' board of directors.

Labour ministries to oversee employment of Egyptian workers

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — No Egyptian labourers may be employed in the Kingdom unless they obtain prior approval from the Labour Ministries in both Jordan and Egypt, according to an announcement carried on Monday by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The announcement was made by Labour Minister Khaled Al Haj Hassan who was speaking during a meeting for directors of labour offices. The decision is retroactive as of Jan. 1, 1987.

During Monday's meeting, Mr. Haj Hassan said the step was in line with an agreement reached with Egyptian officials during his recent visit to Cairo to draw up measures for organising the employment of Egyptian workers in Jordan.

As a result of the talks, both countries decided to prepare lists of the skills required for the Jordanian and Egyptian labour markets and agreed that contracts for the employment of workers from either country should be concluded through their respective ministries of labour.

Under the accord, signed in December 1986, all Egyptian labourers are required to produce a certificate providing that they are not wanted by Egyptian police departments or other official institutions, and a second certificate as evidence of their trade or profession and other papers required for issuing work permits in Jordan.

The minister told the directors that Egyptian workers employed in Jordan before Jan. 1 could continue in their present employment under the same terms they were hired, provided that their work was still needed.

However, Egyptian workers who arrived in Jordan before the official deadline was set and who still have not found jobs or obtained work permits would be given three months to rectify their situation.

Egyptian workers constitute the majority of Jordan's imported workforce and their number is roughly estimated at between 150 to 250,000.

On the issue of unemployment, Mr. Haj Hassan told the meeting that no foreign worker should be brought into Jordan unless it can be shown that his skills are not available in the local workforce.

"I reiterate the importance of employing Jordanians and the need to open up new employment and job opportunities," said the minister, who has been trying to find immediate, short- and long-term solutions for unemployment since his appointment two years ago.

Mr. Haj Hassan also called on all Jordanian job-seekers, regardless of their qualifications and work experience, to register their names at the Kingdom's employment offices in a bid to help them search for employment opportunities.

Data on workforce

Referring to another scheme, Mr. Haj Hassan called on all employment offices to "urgently" provide the ministry with special forms which were earlier circulated amongst private business institutions requesting all information on the numbers of workers, their qualifications etc... to be fed into the ministry's computer system for analysis.

Two months ago, Mr. Haj Hassan announced the circulation of these forms and set the deadline for their completion as Dec. 30. The forms are designed to provide information to the government on the characteristics of the Jordanian labour force, the structure of the market and its needs.

Ministerial committee reviews proposals to ease unemployment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali on Monday presided over a meeting of the ministerial committee in charge of remedying unemployment in Jordan and the committee studied proposals and suggestions put forward by sub-committees looking into the issue.

The proposals included a request that various institutions, such as community colleges, private schools, municipalities and industrial companies, appoint their own doctors in coordination with the Ministry of Health. The proposals also included provisions for establishing private clinics in villages and rural areas and for providing broader health insurance coverage through the private sector.

The committee also studied a proposal calling for supporting plans drawn up by the University of Jordan, including the proposed introduction of a diploma in maintenance in the various fields of engineering and another suggestion to give new graduates from the engineering faculty wider chances of appointment at various institutions and enforcing the legislation regarding the employment of Jordanian engineers in local contracting companies.

The committee also discussed the Vocational Training Corporation's (VTC) plan to qualify 5,000 students in various mechanical trades and the construction, electrical, hotel and agricultural sectors.

The Prime Ministry's advisor Ali Al Hindawi and the committee members said that the committee will hold another meeting on Tuesday to continue discussions on special arrangements to remedy unemployment among graduates of universities and community colleges and to discuss the idea of establishing a company for marketing the labour force both locally and internationally.

Monday's meeting also followed up on several issues raised during the committee's meeting last week which tackled foreign labourers and pre-service training centres.

According to a well-placed official, the projected pre-service training programme is bound to absorb about 7,000 to 8,000 job-seekers in four-month courses set to qualify them for new job vacancies.

According to the official, the government has already adopted certain mechanism under which local manpower will gradually replace foreign labourers, but it has not been implemented as yet.

On unemployment amongst postgraduates, primarily holders of medicine and engineering faculties degrees, the official said the government was planning an expansion of medical and engineering services with a view to absorb more of the unemployment postgraduates.

The VTC was also called upon to accommodate approximately 5,000 undergraduate job-seekers within a scheme geared to rehabilitate and qualify the unskilled people to fill in the unemployment gap, the official said.

The aforementioned short-term solutions will, it is hoped, absorb some 13,000 unemployed people, that is nearly half of the official unemployment rate in the Kingdom, the official noted.

On the recent trends of workers lay-off by certain institutions, low payments and other job problems, the official said the government is putting as a top priority addressing unemployment and related issues and concrete resolutions will be worked out in the near future.

CAEU draws up working plan for '87

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) advisory committee has completed the 1987 working programme for the council's general secretariat. The programme includes a number of events, activities, symposiums and studies aimed at outlining the impact of economic policies on Arab economic integration, the effect of the world economic recession on Arab economies as well as the role of joint Arab economic action.

A study on the goals and policies of regional development and their reflections on integrated development and Arab trade as well as the Arab Common Market will also be conducted within this programme.

The programme also includes an analytical study on the present conditions of Arab social and economic development, its major ups and downs, as well as the role of integrated Arab development in achieving self-reliance.

In the agricultural field, the programme includes a study on Arab agricultural coordination and integration and their roles in comprehensive planning for Arab agricultural development to achieve Arab food security.

Seminar on architecture ends with suggestions on town, country planning

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A seven-day seminar on architecture and related issues wound up its meetings on Monday and issued several recommendations, including suggestions for drawing up a comprehensive planning strategy and setting up a central data and information bank to serve the Kingdom's engineering sector.

Participants in the seminar, entitled "Amman... the city and the citizen," also stressed that local planning and consultative engineering firms be given more say in the implementation of local projects.

Local firms are qualified and should be given total supervision over locally-implemented projects, or if this is not feasible that should at least have a share with foreign companies which are implementing projects in the Kingdom, the recommendation said.

Other recommendations adopted at the end of the seminar, which has inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor, covered means to improve the transport sector in the Kingdom, the organisation of urban areas and the outskirts of towns, comments on the recently-introduced Greater Amman Municipality law and other topics related to architecture and town planning.

An exhibition of designs, sketches and models of roads and houses in Amman was held on the side lines of the seminar, held at the Professional Associations' Complex.

Engineer Ra'ed Naber was awarded first prize at the end of the seminar for his design of a multi-storey recreational centre, imaginatively drawn to fit on a parking lot adjacent to the court premises in downtown Amman.

Working papers

During the last day of the seminar participants reviewed two working papers; one presented Dr. Sari Naser from the University of Jordan and the second by Dr. Taleb Al Rifai.

The first paper reviewed the university's experience in social interaction in Jordan through its construction projects and the second dealt with the history of construction in Amman and socio-political relations with the construction business in the country.

Dudin briefs Georgetown delegation on situation in the West Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from Georgetown University in Washington on Monday met Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin who spoke about the situation in the occupied West Bank and Israel's arbitrary measures designed to evict the Arab population from their homeland. The minister also spoke about Jordan's measures to help the Arab inhabitants maintain their steadfastness.

Mr. Dudin said that a just and comprehensive peace could be achieved in the region through an international conference to be attended by all concerned parties and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council and on the basis of U.N. Resolution 242.

He said that Israel's repressive measures in the occupied Arab lands are outrageous and violate all principles of human rights and international law. The Israeli authorities have confiscated more than half of the Arab land in the occupied territory and have also been depriving the Arab inhabitants of their means of living as well as torturing Arab detainees and imposing curfews on Arab towns and villages, the minister said.

He also detailed the deteriorating economic conditions of the occupied territories and said that the Jordanian government has been providing assistance to the Arab inhabitants and is trying to improve their conditions. The government, he added, plans to provide further help through a projected five-year development plan in the occupied territories.

Designs for JD8m mail sorting centre underway

AMMAN (Petra) — The initial design layout for a JD 8 million electronic mail sorting centre to handle Jordan's international and local postal services has commenced, Mr. Mansour Ibn Tarif, under secretary at the Ministry of Communications, said on Monday.

Mr. Ibn Tarif said that the projected centre, on which work will begin soon, will have a total built-up area of 12,000 square metres on an area of land owned by the Communications Ministry.

The building, to be situated near the Jordan radio and television station, will cover the Kingdom's mail sorting requirements for the coming 30 years, Mr. Ibn Tarif added.

He explained that the ministry offered tenders for the centre's studies to a local and a foreign contracting company in accordance with a Cabinet decision issued last year. Under the decision, Jordanian contracting companies were given a greater opportunity to execute national construction projects.

Rawdah housing complex in final stages of construction

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With its contrasting features of blank forbidding walls along the main street and inviting and varied facades of the tall tower blocks, the Jordan Islamic Bank's huge housing project, "Rawdah" — now in its final stages of construction — is arousing much interest and speculation. Due to be completed by the beginning of 1987 at an estimated cost of JD 13.5 million, the project commands a fine position on 44 square dunums of land that stretch back from the University of Jordan road and reveals itself to be an almost self-contained city within a city that incorporates many traditional Arab ideas of living with more modern, universal ones.

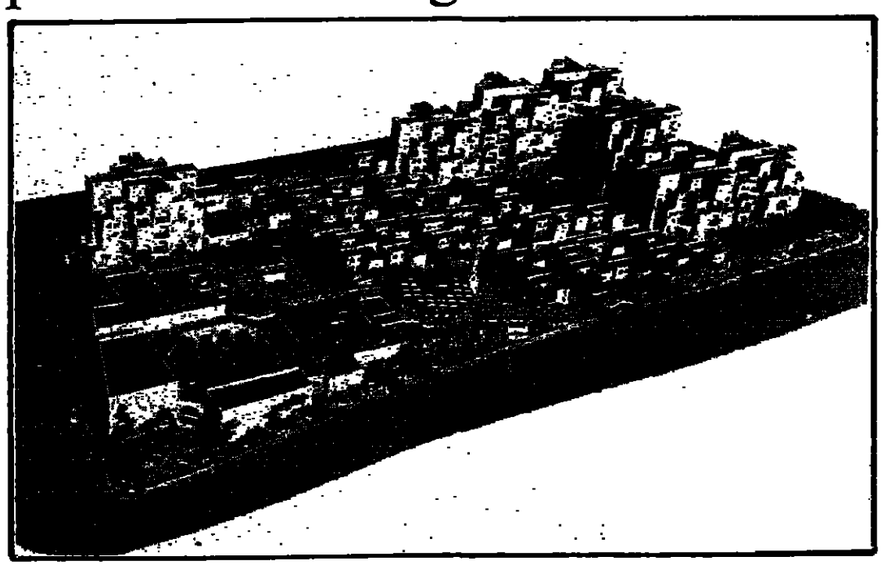
Designed by the French based firm of architects, Barreth, in conjunction with the local office of Abukurah, the complex comprises 30 villas, seven high-rise residential towers consisting of 213 apartments, a mosque, a school, a library, a civic hall and a shopping centre with underground parking for around 300 cars. Representing the firm of Barreth on site is Antonino Cascio, who explained that the concept behind the project was to return to the old Islamic idea of privacy, at the same time preserving the intimacy and completeness of a traditional Arab town with its souks and narrow streets that thread their way between high walled houses.

To some extent these aims have been achieved; a particularly pleasing feature of the complex being the pedestrian walkways that cross and recross the site free from cars, which have only limited access, and their accompanying trappings of noise, dust and pollution. Better still is the fact that these walkways, that pass by vine covered garages and borders of flowers, continue often through huge monumental arches, into the tower blocks forming a labrynth of paths that connect all the tower blocks together.

Walkways

Normally in a series of tower blocks, one would have to go all the way down one block to gain access to another. But in this complex, all the different levels in all the tower blocks are interlinked by the walkways. The feeling of continuity is further enhanced by the many open skylights. Situated over small squares onto which the apartments open, these skylights allow sunshine to penetrate to the very base of the blocks; the continually shifting patterns of light and shade creating that peaceful calm, peculiar only to high-walled courtyards. Via ramps, the walkways finally end on different parts of the roof in communal terraces with spectacular views across Amman.

Both apartments and villas are based on the same modular design and, large or small, they thus incorporate many of the same features while maintaining a certain individuality in the layout. One of the most successful features is the double volume reception room which is overlooked by the family room on the second floor via open arched windows. The height and generally large dimensions of this room gives it an appropriate importance and atmosphere for its function, although this is sometimes gained at the expense of the rest of the rooms which tend to be on the small side. Also, because both villas and apartments have been made as private as possible, a privacy achieved by only having windows that look out onto to their own courtyards and terraces, they tend to be on the dark side — an asset, however, in the summer when temperatures soar.



Model of the Rawdah housing project

All the residences have been finished to a very high standard and their 100 per cent wool fitted carpets, attractive wooden staircases, fully-equipped kitchens and full central heating will ultimately make them attractive buys.

Textures and finishes

The varying levels of the residential blocks gives them an interesting form which is further enhanced by the different textures of the precast concrete blocks from which the project has been constructed. These different finishes, created by specially prepared molds, simulate the dressings on the stone used in local construction so that, from far, one could be forgiven for thinking the project is constructed from local limestone. The rougher textures, the "tubsy" type finishes have been employed at the base of the building to emphasise the feeling of weight and solidarity while the finer finishes — the "m'fajal" are used at the top. The walls around the small, communal gardens and those of the villas have been constructed in natural stone, their rural organic appearance lending a contrasting atmosphere to the site.

The pedestrian walkways lead from the main residential blocks, past the mosque, still in its early stages of construction. When finished it will have a large library, apartments for visiting researchers and the imam on the lower floor and a highly ornate, multi-domed prayer hall above. The walkways lead to the shopping centre and built over an underground car park, the shops are reached via a ramp which works its way around a central courtyard onto which all the shops look, finally ending in a roof garden.

The school

Across from the shopping centre is the school, the design of which is particularly attractive. Entering through a large wrought iron gate, the visitor or pupil is led into the school by a wide flight of stairs which turns and divides at a fountain. The large classrooms individually open out onto a central courtyard which, along with the generally small scale of the school, gives the place something of the charm of an old, traditional Jordanian "madraseh."

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

ANNOUNCEMENT
AVAILABILITY OF PRIVATE SECTOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The Ministry of Planning announces the availability of short-term training opportunities in the U.S. for private sector personnel in a wide range of courses including General Management, Financial Management, Accountancy, Marketing, Production, Quality Control, Business Law, Personnel Administration, and/or other subjects related to the promotion and strengthening of Jordan's private sector with emphasis on manufacturing, agribusiness and management-related services. Priority will be given to training which is consistent with the Jordan's Five-Year Plan objective of increasing the role of the private sector in Jordan's development process, e.g., increasing exports, creating jobs, and improving productivity and competitiveness.

Training is of a practical and short term nature, i.e., not to exceed 6 months, and may be with a wide variety of U.S. institutions and companies. This programme is being implemented in cooperation with the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Applicants must be Jordanian citizens with adequate proficiency in English language and who are willing to participate in the cost of training through their own resources or those of their employers. Individuals and private sector institutions and companies interested in these training opportunities may write in English to the Ministry of Planning, Training Section, P.O. Box 555, Amman, Jordan.

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Timely link

IT is good news that the Arab League has sent a representative to Saudi Arabia to conduct talks with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) over ways to institutionalise their relationships. The talks between the two organisations began in Jeddah yesterday when an envoy of Secretary-General of the Arab League Chadli Klibi met with OIC chief Sharifuddin Pirzadeh.

The talks should come as no surprise in view of the organic link that is already existing between the two organisations. If there is any surprise, it comes from the fact that such talks had not started any earlier. The areas where the two organisations can cooperate and coordinate their efforts are endless, and it stands to reason therefore that the two sides should pool these efforts to solve their common problems and conflicts. We know that the Arab League has many working relationships with many other organisations — regional as well as international; and as such its impending new working relationship with the OIC would be a continuation of the functional path which the league has undertaken since its inception. Likewise the OIC has already established functional relationships with many regional and international organisations since its creation. The cycle of relationships must therefore be completed with the initiation of institutionalised contacts and cooperation.

In wishing this new emerging relationship every success, we also voice our concern and fear that it might not add much to the already incomplete functions of each organisation. The Arab League needs much overhauling and revamping in order to become an action-oriented regional organisation. It has evolved very little since it came into being and in order to be a helping hand to the OIC, it first has to be in a healthier state of affairs. Otherwise it would only add frustration and impotency to the OIC which is relatively young and inexperienced. The two sides can certainly complement one another in their endeavours; but to do so effectively, both must be strong and healthy in their own respective right. Before them are very critical and pressing issues, on top of which are the Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian problem, general inter-Arab relations and inter-Islamic relations. How they deal with such problems and in what manner they address them is the real task that lies ahead.

The Islamic conference which is due to be held in Kuwait later this month offers a good opportunity to study and define this task. Let us hope that enough progress is made at the current Jeddah talks in order to present the Muslim and Arab leaders with something solid to build on.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab-Islamic interests

WE all are agreed on the fact that an Arab or Islamic summit meeting would be totally against the interest of the enemies of Arab and Muslim nations, but we should also reaffirm the fact that any obstruction laid in the path of convening such summits constitutes a hostile action to the Arab and Muslim nations. The forthcoming summit in Kuwait gains added significance because it is being held at a location close to the Gulf war, but such a summit is drawing hostile attitudes from the Iranian regime and other forces working against the interests of the Arab Nation. Therefore, we can say that any party that objects to the convening of the coming summit, or tries to hamper this important gathering, can only be classified as an enemy of the Arabs and Islam and harbours vindictive and evil designs directed against the Arab Nation and its higher interests. The coming summit is a golden chance for the Arab and Muslim leaders to discuss means of saving the nation from further sufferings and divisions and disputes that can only benefit the common enemies. We hope that the majority of Muslim leaders will attend the summit regardless of those who opt to keep aloof with or without any given reason. If, on the other hand, the Kuwait summit fails to be convened then several more years might go by before another such important gathering could be arranged. This, if it happens, would no doubt lead to further breaches in Arab and Islamic solidarity and a further weakening of Arab and Muslim ranks.

Al Dustour: Beware of Iranian moves

IRAN has been maintaining an information campaign directed against the forthcoming Islamic summit meeting due to be held in Kuwait this month. It has not satisfied itself by turning down an invitation to attend, but it has gone ahead with threats against the convening of such a summit in Kuwait, claiming that the country was not safe, being close to the field of operations of the on-going Gulf war. The Tehran regime has been threatening to wreck the meeting and urging other Islamic nations to refrain from attending. This sabotage activity is not intended against Kuwait alone but it is rather directed against the Muslim countries at large, because Tehran does not want Islamic countries to discuss Iran's aggression on Iraq or the Iranian regime's rejection of all mediation bids by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to end the conflict. Furthermore, Iran's sabotage is directed against Arab countries and their solidarity and support for Iraq in its endeavour to repel aggression. Iran followed the same policy against the Arab and Muslim nations during the 1982 non-aligned meeting in Baghdad and feels its duty to undermine solidarity among Third World countries which continue to strive for peace that is shunned by Iran and other forces hostile to the Arab and Muslim nations. We hope that all Iran's attempts will be doomed, and, we warn other Arab countries against supporting Tehran's sabotage activities because such moves are detrimental to the Arab Nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran makes an about-face

TEHRAN is nowadays busy with issuing threats to Islamic countries in general and Kuwait in particular, warning them against holding an Islamic summit meeting in Kuwait later this month. At the start of this campaign, Tehran claimed that Kuwait was not a secure and safe place for the high-level meeting, but later it changed its tune into issuing open threats for those planning to attend. The Iranians probably escalated their campaign against the coming summit when the Arab countries began a wide-spread campaign to rally support for it. But it is to be noted that Iran had announced its acceptance of a Kuwaiti invitation to take part in the summit before the recent devastating defeat it suffered in Shat Al Arab waterway, and this implies that its rejection of the summit emanated from the weak position in which Tehran has now found itself after the battle in which thousands of Iranians were slain. Had the latest Iranian offensive achieved the slightest success, we are sure that Tehran's position vis-a-vis the coming parley would have been reversed. As the Iranian threats and diplomatic offensive against the coming summit continue and escalate, we hear reports of fresh massing of Iranian troops along the Iraqi border in a new attempt to penetrate Iraq's defence lines. Perhaps with the new move, the Iranians hope to impress the leaders of the Islamic nations and persuade them not to attend the summit.

1987 may be year of new Egypt-Arab links

By John Rogers
Reuter

CAIRO — A decade after then-President Anwar Sadat outraged the Arab World by travelling to occupied Jerusalem, 1987 is shaping up as a year in which Egypt may get back on official talking terms with most Arab states.

President Hosni Mubarak or top aides have recently met or exchanged messages with leaders of several countries which cut ties with Cairo in 1979 over its separate peace treaty with Israel and suspended it from the Arab League.

A common cause — support for Iraq in its six-year-old war with Iran — has been the main catalyst for better relations, especially with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

Neutral diplomats here rule out a rapprochement only with Libya and Syria, because of their backing for Iran in the Gulf war and ingrained hostility towards Egypt.

A senior Egyptian official summed up the tone of messages sent to Cairo by other Arab leaders last year as: "We are not working against you and we feel your role is vital."

Relations have warmed noticeably with Saudi Arabia, which sent a consignment of wheat aid. In July, King Fahd gave his first interview to a Cairo newspaper for several years, saying: "Egypt is not even a second away from our hearts."

Kuwait sent a food shipment after police riots here last February, a short-lived national crisis, in what the official described as a "symbolic but significant gesture."

Western diplomats think it likely that Gulf states, despite reduced oil income, will give Egypt cash aid to help it with a current heavy debt repayment burden.

Egypt was readmitted last month to the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce and the Arab Football Federation.

"It's all warming up. It's like ping-pong diplomacy," said one diplomat, referring to China's 1970s strategy of using sporting contacts to develop ties with countries whose governments did not then recognise Peking.

Last September, Djibouti became the first Arab country since Jordan in 1984 to restore links with Cairo severed in 1979 by all Arab states except Oman, Somalia and Sudan.

Mubarak's attendance at the January 26 Kuwait summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), to which Egypt was readmitted in 1984 after a five-year suspension, will give his Arab friends an opportunity to welcome the most populous Arab state back to the fold.

Some Cairo diplomats believe the summit could feature a separate Arab gathering involving Egypt and those states ready to sit at the same table.

Such a meeting would bring the wheel of Middle East history almost full circle since Sadat defied the bulk of Arab opinion to make his November 1977 journey to Jerusalem and embark on the U.S.-brokered Camp David talks with the Israelis that led to the separate peace pact.

This policy was also a reason fr his assassination in 1981.

The awkward relationship with Israel is a dominant feature of Egyptian policy. Most other Arab states, while not accepting it, appear to have got used to it.

"Apart from Syria and Libya, they are not really working against us in the peace process," a senior official told Reuters.

Egyptians reject suggestions that restoration of ties would mean Egypt's rejoining the Arab fold. They say they never left and Egypt is still the fulcrum of Arab power and culture.

The old Arab League headquarters here remains open and houses occasional conferences on Arab themes. Although non-Egyptian league bureaucrats work at its new base in Tunis, Cairo continues to pay the league's Egyptian staff.

Mubarak's speeches feature passages deploring the lack of Arab unity and criticising Libya and Syria for backing Iran.

But he avoids any suggestion that he is eager for restored relations with Arab states, and has said he does not want to embarrass other leaders by piling on the pressure.

"Egypt is not requesting anything from anybody," he said recently.

Egyptian officials say that what really matters is that personal, trade, cultural and economic ties with other Arab states, especially those in the Gulf, are growing without the formality of official diplomatic links — as is Egypt's military aid to Iraq.

Arab investment in Egypt has increased to about $1 billion, Egypt's investment authority reports.

Most Arab League states maintain well-staffed missions here — "interests sections" operating under other nations' flags as embassies in all but title.

Egyptian officials detect a trend to more senior representation, and several missions, including those of Kuwait and Iraq, are headed by diplomats of ambassadorial rank.

Arab tourists flock to Cairo and some two million Egyptian labourers and professionals work in other Arab states, providing Egypt with its biggest source of hard currency.

Security Council is impotent in the face of defiance by many nations

By Nick Ludington
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Defiance of Security Council resolutions, which are legally binding, is routine and raises questions about the effectiveness of the council as the U.N.'s primary guarantor of peace.

Here, in question-and-answer form, is a look at the 15-member council.

Question: Who defies the resolutions?

Answer: Several states, chief among them Israel, South Africa and Iran.

Israel has ignored calls for withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories as well as other actions the council believed would help solve the Middle East conflict.

South Africa has defied resolutions demanding that it dismantle its system of racial separation and dozens of orders that it give independence to Namibia, also known as South-West Africa.

Iran refuses to enter negotiations to end the longest war since World War II despite six years of council calls for a political settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

Turkey ignores a council call to withdraw its troops from northern Cyprus and to rescind its recognition of the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus.

Q: What about the superpowers?

A: They don't have to defy the council. The five permanent members of the 15-member body — Britain, China, France, The Soviet Union and the United States — have veto power and can kill any Security Council resolution they oppose.

The General Assembly has passed resolutions calling for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, an end to U.S. aid to the Nicaragua contra rebels, and independence for the French territory of New Caledonia. Those resolutions are non-binding.

Q: Is anything being done to strengthen the council?

A: During the United Nations' 40th anniversary last fall, the council held a special meeting at the ministerial level to discuss its role. The ministers agreed: "That there was an urgent need to enhance the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its principal role of maintaining international peace and security."

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, reporting to the General Assembly this fall, said two needs must be met to save the credibility of the United Nations. The superpowers must overcome their distrust and cooperate within the Security Council, especially in settling regional issues, and all states must see it is in their interest to see that the Security Council resolutions are respected.

Q: Why doesn't this happen?

A: Neither the superpowers nor many other states are willing to heed demands of the council which clash with what they see as their national interests.

Israelis see a threat to their "national existence" in giving up the occupied territories or abandoning control of a "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

South Africa's white-run government sees a loss of comfortable lifestyles and a communist takeover if apartheid is abandoned and mineral-rich Namibia given idependence.

Turkey insists its troops are needed to protect the Turkish Cypriot enclave from the Greek Cypriot majority.

France says New Caledonia is a part of France and the majority of inhabitants, including many European settlers, want to keep it that way.

Iran says the war with Iraq can only come when the Iraqi government is toppled.

Iran provided a recent example of council impotence when its U.N. ambassador, Rajaie Khorassani, refused to consult with U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters, the council president during December, before an Iran-Iraq war debate. The council's presidency rotates among the members.

"As far as I know that's the first time in history that an ambassador has refused to consult with the council president," Walters said.

Q: Does the council do any good?

A: Yes. Several U.N. peacekeeping forces dispatched by the council have been successful buffers between states in conflict, for example between Syria and Israel on the Golan Heights and between Turkish and Greek Cypriots.

A U.N. force in southern Lebanon has performed important humanitarian tasks for the people in that embattled region.

Also, as former Indian Ambassador Natarajan Krishnan has noted, "it's all the small countries have" in making international appeals.

"Even focusing attention on a dangerous situation can sometimes help to keep it from getting worse," he said.

Vietnamese keep alert watch on mountainous border with China

By Peter Eng
The Associated Press

China and Vietnam fought bloody border battles in 1979 and skirmishes have occurred ever since. An Associated Press correspondent recently visited a Vietnamese military outpost on the mountain border and filed this report.

QUANG HAN, Vietnam — Major Nong Van Deng and the men of Frontier Unit 171 shiver in the winter winds, watching for armed Chinese they say try to slip across the valleys of the rocky Phia Khao mountains into Vietnam.

"If nothing happens, we are glad, not bored," Deng said, constantly rubbing his hands for warmth against near-freezing temperatures inside his thinly walled command post just under three kilometres from the mountainous border.

For the past eight years, Deng has been taking part in sporadic fighting along the spectacularly beautiful frontier.

A 17-day war in early 1979 left tens of thousands of casualties on both sides, a bitter legacy of mistrust, and a 1,300 kilometre border on constant military alert.

China, however, has yet to deliver what it calls its "second lesson" to the Vietnamese.

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Kampuchean resistance leader, has quoted Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping as saying Peking will not launch a second attack because it wants to show the world it is committed to the United Nations Charter and to the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

But, Sihanouk added, Deng said China would continue clashes all along the frontier to pressure the Vietnamese to withdraw from Kampuchea.

Vietnamese forces invaded Kampuchea after a series of border clashes with Kampuchean troops in 1977-78 and installed a rebel communist regime the Chinese regard as a puppet.

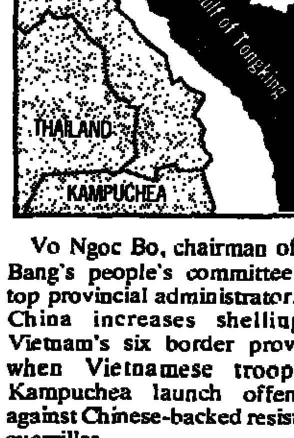
Vietnam, having fought off a succession of Chinese invasions since 111 B.C., maintains 600,000 infantrymen at the frontier, Western diplomats say.

Since their 1979 fighting, China and Vietnam have traded frequent accusations of artillery and mortar attacks, battalion-sized incursions, "land-grabbing" assaults that left dozens of casualties, and assorted acts of sabotage.

Six visiting Western reporters saw no evidence of any recent major fighting during a brief guided tour of Vietnam's Cao Bang province, which includes Quang Han. Cao Bang juts out like finger into China's Quangxi province.

The reporters saw a few sparsely guarded military checkpoints. Occasionally, small bands of soldiers with automatic rifles were seen trudging up the mountain passes. A few truckloads of unarmed troops edged up rocky roads, twisting around limestone mountains that plunge into deep, terraced valleys.

Otherwise, the misty highlands were quiet but for the scamper of wild pigs and the clucking of chickens.



Vo Ngoc Bo, chairman of Cao Bang's people's committee, the top provincial administrator, said China increases shelling of Vietnam's six border provinces when Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea launch offensives against Chinese-backed resistance guerrillas.

Bo said most border clashes of recent years have centred on Ha Tuyen province just east of Cao Bang.

Vietnamese media claimed that on Oct. 14, China fired 35,000 heavy shells into Vi Xuyen district to back infantry attacks to seize territory. The report said the enemy was driven back with nearly 100 casualties.

Bo said the Chinese shelled Cao Bang 68 times in the first 10 months of 1986, compared to 75 times in all of 1985.

Bo said the Chinese made three incursions in 1986, two fewer than 1985, but that they were crossing in larger units. He added that one battalion attacked a base at Thi Hoa village: in the other two cases, platoons attacked positions that also were one kilometre inside Vietnam.

"We pay in kind," Bo said. "If they use weapons, we use weapons. If they shell, we have to shell them. ...If they kill one of us, we try to kill one of them."

More difficult to counter, Bo said, is China's increasing psychological warfare, through espionage and powerful loudspeaker broadcasts aimed at villagers and soldiers at the front.

In these broadcasts, he said, the Chinese apologise for 1979 and promise not to attack again.

He said broadcasts have included mention of Vietnam's recent monetary reform, which has not been successful and a biography of Hoang Van Hoan, the top Communist Party official who defected to China in 1979.

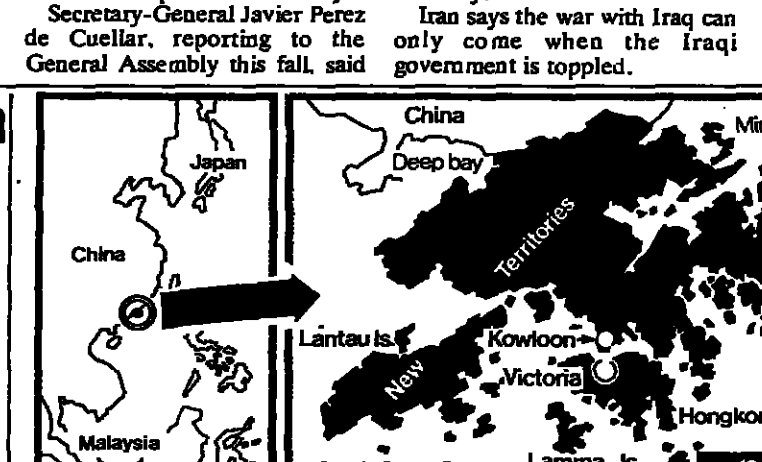
"There are so many forms of psychological activities," Bo went on. "Little by litte they try to infiltrate and have their own people working in our ranks."

In early December, the official army newspaper, Quan Doi Nhan Dan, said in a front-page article that life for soldiers on the border was difficult, with meals poor and warm clothing scarce. It charged that authorities were not doing enough to take care of the soldiers' families."

At Quang Han, Major Deng and his 100 men live in longhouses with thin walls made of mud and rice plants that keep out only the worst of the winter winds.

Deng said his soldiers serve three years without leave and earn a monthly salary of 600 dong ($7.50) and up. That is equivalent to the pay of a mid-level civil servant in Hanoi.

Asked if the soldiers had any complaints, he replied: "Our men consider the job an honourable one because it is the frontier."



- Britain to administer Hongkong until 1997.
- Sino-British liaison group to help ensure smooth transfer of power.
- July 1, 1997: China takes over. Hong-kong to be autonomous (except foreign affairs and defence) for 50 years, with capitalism and 'lifestyle' preserved.

Hong Kong faces critical decade

By William Kazer
Reuter

HONG KONG — Hong Kong has withstood the initial shock of an uncertain political future but it faces new and critical tests in the decade leading to the transfer of power to China in 1997, businessmen and economists say.

They told Reuters that growing debate over political reform could harm the British colony's humming economic machine and slow growth over the next 10 years.

Under a Sino-British agreement signed in 1984 Hong Kong will revert to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997, but will retain its capitalist system for 50 years afterwards.

The accord, reached after two years of often bitter wrangling, led to a rebound in hard-hit property prices and the Hang Seng index, the colony's main stock market barometer. The index closed the year on Wednesday at a new high of 2,568.30, up from a low of 746 in July, 1984.

But Hong Kong faces tough questions such as how its legislature, now filled by appointment and indirect election, should be selected.

Reforms in the process would be viewed warily both by China's communist rulers, who have warned against rapid change, and the territory's conservative businessmen.

Lord Kadoorie, chairman of a big local utility, China Light and Power, told shareholders: "The next few years are critical for our future development.

"I urge those who advocate rapid and significant change to our established systems to consider the divisive effect they have on our people at a time when unity is so essential."

Other businessmen echo those concerns.

James McGregor, director of the General Chamber of Commerce, said: "His will be a critical period of appraisal. We must not seriously erode business confidence."

Economists said political uncertainties in the years ahead may lead management and skilled labour to leave.

Already there are signs that local business is taking out insurance over the future by diversifying overseas.

Last month a big property and trading firm, Hutchison Whampoa and an affiliate spent more than 2.7 billion dollars ($345 million) on a major stake in Canada's Husky Oil.

The same group bought a 4.9 per cent stake in Pearsons, a British publishing and energy concern, in September.

Foreign companies, with much less of their wealth in Hong Kong, have moved in to fill part of the gap.

Australian entrepreneur Alan Bond spent 1.4 billion dollars ($180 million) in October buying prime residential property from a leading local property firm, Hongkong Land.

U.S.-based newspaper magnate Rupert Murdoch has relieved the biggest local bank, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, of its controlling stake in the colony's main English-language daily, the South China Morning Post.

"We will see from now until 1990 a sort of musical chairs with local capitalists liquidating assets as a form of insurance," said Nicholas Kwan, senior analyst at a consulting firm, Business International.

"Those sectors which require long-term investments with fixed assets will find it difficult," he said, adding that textiles and electronics, two of the territory's main exports, would be hurt.

The export-led economy has rolled up gross domestic product growth of about six per cent this year and economists say this strong performance could be equalled in 1987. But growth, though likely to be steady in the coming years, may be restrained by the loss of some investment capital.

John Greenwood, economist and chairman of investment firm GT Management (Asia), said: "Clearly there is some risk in investing in Hong Kong. The main consequence (of lost investment) will be growth slightly lower than it could be."

Hong Kong's property market, while rebounding from its 1984 trough, has seen a disturbing trend of rents rising faster than property prices.

"The closer we get to 1990-1991, landlords may want higher yields to compensate for capital value risk," said Peter Churchouse, managing director of research at real estate firm Jones Lang Wootton.

Analysts said factors beyond Hong Kong's control such as the economic health of its major export market, the United States, and the political climate in China will also play key roles in the local economy's performance.

But if the changes ahead present challenges, there are also new opportunities.

China has already become Hong Kong's second biggest export market after the United States and Peking's march towards economic modernisation has created new demand for capital and technology.

But economists said it was still too early to tell whether this would offset problems in the coming years.

Kwan of Business International said: "We have another two years of strong growth but it's still a big question mark for three to five years later."

Jordan — treasure house of history

The following article appeared under the same headline in the Dec. 22, 1986, issue of the Saudi daily Arab News. The daily is published in Jeddah.

By Abdul Latif Al Hoad

AMMAN— There is a phrase in French "embarras de choix" which means to be confused by the amount of things to choose from. Such a comment can be applied to Jordan. There is *in Jordan such a* wide range of things to see or to do, that one could easily become, embarras de choix."

Let me try to explain this variety historically, to begin with.

Amman, the capital of Jordan has been shown by recent excavations to have been inhabited in the early Bronze Age – 2,000 to 3,000 years B.C.— but the museum at Jabal Qala'a, the Citadel, which is a must to visit, has artifacts found in Amman, dated 400,000 years ago. At Azraq, an oasis about an hour's drive east of Amman, hand axes and other stone tools found indicate that Stone Age bands of hunters lived in the region 100,000 years before that, possibly hunting the animals that came to drink at the waters of the enormous lake that was there until *about 20,000* years ago when the area dried up and the deserts of Syria and Arabia were formed.

I find that this sort of history is beyond my grasp and I therefore look toward more understandable dates and occurrences. Well, here, we have a treasure house in Jordan.

Amman as a name almost certainly comes from the Ammonites (or vice versa) who were in this part of Jordan, with the Edomites in the south and the Moabites on the hills to the east of the Dead Sea and to the south of the Ammonites, about 1280 B.C. This is some 600 years after Abraham arrived in the land of Canaan and 300 years after Jacob went to Egypt and Egypt took control of Palestine. In fact, the most interesting Crusader castle in the area, at Karak, was known as Crak des Moabites, or Kir-Moab, at times in its long history.

The Phoenician empire was about 1300 B.C., with Moses being shown the "promised land" from Mount Nebo, in the land of Moab, about this time. All this and more is in Jordan. It is even possible to visit the historical sites in occupied West Bank, and the cities of occupied Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

A car ride of less than an hour from Amman brings one to Madaba where some of the finest mosaics preserved from the Byzantine empire are to be found. Six miles to the northwest of this ancient (Bronze Age) town in Jabal Siyagha ("Siyagh" means monastery in aramaic), from where on a clear day one can see the Dead Sea and even the towers of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem; at night the lights of Jerusalem may clearly be seen.

Nearby but lower down the hill, and easy car ride, is the spring that still flows where Moses struck the rock with his staff and water gushed forth. When I visited the spring recently I asked to see the actual spot where the rock had been struck and was shown to a manhole cover which when lifted revealed a cistern. I was also led to a spot about 200 metres from the cistern where water flowed from the cliffside, albeit from an iron pipe. I drank from this water and found it sweet and refreshing.

Quite apart from such auspicious history, Jordan can look upon and show evidence of Nabataeans, Roman, Greek, Byzantine and many other incursions and influences, not to mention the Crusaders.

The Romans must have been particularly drawn to Amman. With its seven hills it must have seemed like a home away from home, having as well a climate similar to that of Rome. They built a large amphitheatre which is to this day to be seen and indeed is used, in downtown Amman. Called at that time Philadelphia, Amman was the headquarters of the Roman forces in Arabia. They extended Jerash (Gerasa of the Bible) from its Phoenician and Nabataean beginnings and in fact so beautiful a town was it that it was used as a holiday town for retired senior government employees of the Roman Empire, a rest and recuperation centre.

The Khazanah at Petra

Today Jerash is the best-preserved and largest Roman and Byzantine ruin in the world, the sheer size and magnificence of which brings an involuntary gasp of admiration, and to see the wheel marks of chariots worn into the hard stone gives one an idea of how busy it must have been in those times. Today, largely due to the efforts of Queen Noor, Jerash is the scene of spectacular Son et Lumiere shows in a variety of languages. Jerash is only an hour from Amman by car.

Some fifty miles south of Madaba is Karak, where the walled town contains a Crusader castle of importance, built on the site of a previous Roman fort and later added to by Salah-al-Din (Saladin). This castle, with its maze of secret passages by use of which the defender could counterattack an enemy from almost any direction, lies on the King's Highway.

A shorter route is by way of the Desert Highway, but if time can be spared the journey between Madaba and Karak is of the most outstanding beauty. At times the road, with its sheer drops, can be aweinspiring.

A further 100 miles or so to the south brings us to that "rose-red city half as old as time" that the poet Dean Burgon wrote of after its rediscovery by the Swiss explorer John Burckhardt in the early 19th century. Petra has got to be high point of any visit to Jordan and needs a whole day or more to appreciate it properly.

The only entrance to the canyon which contains the outstanding rock buildings carved into the rock by the Nabataeans, is by way of a narrow defile, called the "Siq." The Siq is in places so narrow and its walls so high one feels that they must meet overhead. The Siq is about two miles in length and although it is better to walk in order to best enjoy the carvings in the rocks through this passage, one can hire a horse for a small sum. These horses are quiet and the owner, usually a small boy, will accompany you in any case.

When one has convinced oneself that the defile must come to a dead end one is suddenly faced by the awe-inspiring facade of the Khazanah, the Treasury.

Reluctantly you will leave Petra and now for another change of pace. Aqaba is so close that that must be the next stop. Aqaba contains all the delights of a modern seaside resort. Sailing, boating, windsurfing, waterskiing and just plain swimming or sunbathing are all here. Should your interests lie in snorkeling or diving then real delights await you. The waters of the Red Sea are so clear and possess such properties that more corals are to be found here than in any other part of the world. The fish are brightly coloured and abundant. The beaches are a delight and seafood is a gourmet's dream.

Drag yourself away from these pleasures and take a trip to the Wadi Rum. Here you can take a day trip, or longer, by camel, should you feel like camping beneath the stars in a Bedouin encampment sleeping in a bayt shaar, a goat hair tent. Should a camel not be quite to your liking, a four-wheel-drive vehicle can be hired together with a guide to explore the wonders of the desert and rocks where the legendary adventurer Lawrence, with the help of the Great Arab Revolt drove the Turks from the area that they had claimed as the Ottoman empire.

Incidentally, here, in the hills that enclose the wadi, can easily be seen how the land was laid down beneath the sea during the Great Flood at the time of Noah.

You have not in any way exhausted the marvels of this truly varied country in such a relatively small area. We have not even spoken about the desert castles of the Ommayyids or of their hunting lodges such as Qasr A'mr with its startlingly lovely frescoes; the uncompleted Palace of Mushatta; the oasis of Azraq with its game reserve and bird sanctuary, and its own castle built by Aziz ed-din Aybaq in the early 13th century, on the ruins of Roman and Byzantine structures quite possibly, of the black basalt stone that is common to the area, and from which it takes its name. This castle was a favourite of Col. Lawrence and he used it as his headquarters when, with Sharif Hussein, he planned his final march on Damascus.

Further delights you must discover yourself. It is very easy to travel to Jordan from Saudi Arabia. Regular flights from Riyadh, Dhahran and Jeddah by Saudia and Royal Jordanian Airlines fly direct. But why not drive? The necessary papers are not difficult to obtain and to have a car in Jordan is of great benefit. If you do fly, however, I do recommend that you consider hiring a car, which can be done at quite reasonable rates, especially if you are prepared to join in the favourite sport of the country, haggling. It is such fun to bargain over a price. Do not believe the owner who will try to assure you that your efforts will bring him to the very brink of bankruptcy.

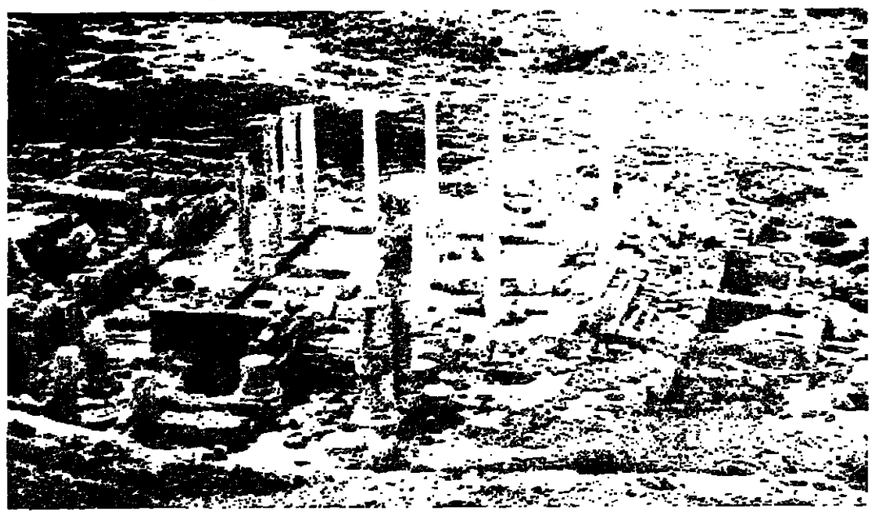
Byzantine mosaic at Madaba

Hotels in Amman range from four dinars a single room, six dinars a double, up to the Marriot at 25 dinars in single. (The Jordanian dinar is valued at about three dollars.) The answer is to shop around. I can personally recommend the Regency Palace at 25 dinars which is excellent, as well as the Nefertiti at 4.50 dinars a single and the Qasr at six dinars a single.

For those of you who do not wish to hire a car, there are the Jordan Tourist coaches, JETT, commonly referred to as JET, which travel to most points mentioned in this article, at very reasonable rates.

At Petra, Jerash Karak and Maan and other main places there are government rest houses, as well as hotels.

Passes to travel to the occupied West Bank may be obtained from the Ministry of the Interior with remarkably little hassle, but allow two days for processing. You may not take your car into occupied Palestine and there are fairly tight rules as to when you may cross, usually only the morning before midday, but those details are easy to obtain.



The ancient Greco-Roman city of Jerash

Photographer rides under the rails in New York for shots

By Steve James
Reuter

NEW YORK — Bruce Davidson doesn't dodge bullets or risk his life to bring pictures of wars or world disasters to newspaper readers, but many might think he showed as much courage to produce his latest book of photographs.

He spent more than a year riding the New York subway.

"I felt I wanted to transform the vulgar beast into something beautiful," he said.

For that, Davidson went down into the world's most daunting underground railway system, which carries more than a million passengers a day and where more than 1,000 crimes are committed every month, from pickpocketing to rape and murder.

Many New Yorkers are so petrified of the noisy, sometimes antiquated, rat-infested and graffiti-daubed cars and tunnels that they would rather pay several times more than the $1 flat fare for a cab than set foot in the subway.

Davidson was mugged once, had his camera stolen, was threatened with violence, verbally abused and surrounded by a teenage gang armed with daggers.

"There's a certain amount of hostility," he said.

"There's always the possibility of danger, but it doesn't always come out," Davidson told Reuters in an interview.

The 53-year-old photographer spends most of his professional time taking technical pictures for commercial brochures and advertisements.

His real interest though, is the human condition, seen in the lives of ordinary people whether they live in the slums of New York or in rural shacks in the south that Davidson photographed during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

He has been acclaimed for that work and for a previous book, "East 100th Street," about the ghettos of the Bronx area of New York.

His latest work, entitled "Subway," contains sixty remarkable pictures of a subterranean world where riders are crammed together in a way which through his lens is both frightening and seductive.

There are touching moments, like three little children looking out through graffiti-covered train windows onto a magical coney island amusement park

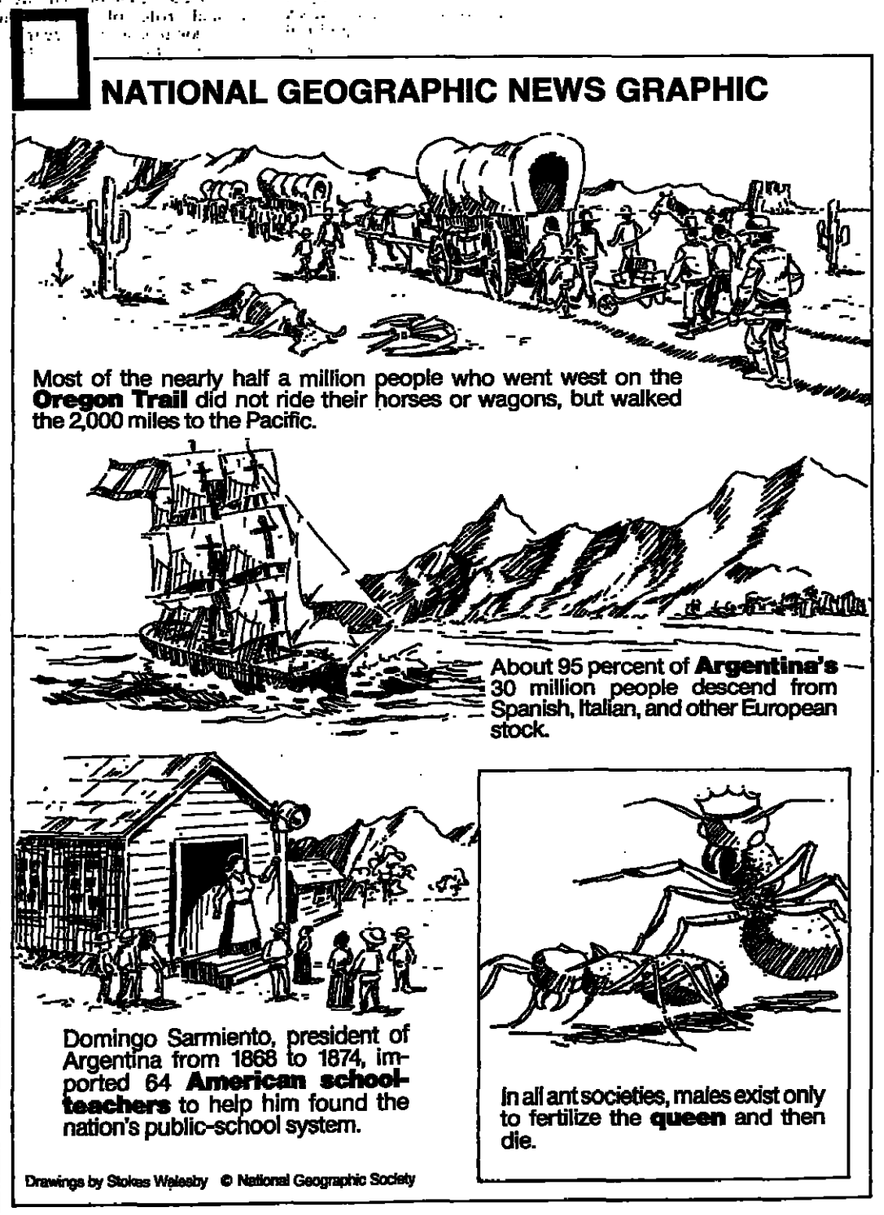
The hard edge comes in the shot of a menacing gang of teenagers on a Queens platform, or a homeless old woman in a train car, or the fear in the eyes of a *well-dressed couple looking so out* of place in the squalor of a subway car.

"The subway is the closest thing to a metaphor for these times. There's such a compression of people in the subway from all walks of life — it's a social equaliser," said Davidson.

"It's also probably one of the most inhumane places on the face of the earth. Anyone entering it is demoralised and dehumanised and immediatetly faced with their own mortality."

He recounted how one time, he saw a man enter a car smoking and sit next to a woman. A man told him smoking was banned but the smoker was abusive and refused to stop.

"Well, I had my camera ready, thinking something was going to happen, when suddenly the little old lady next to him reaches over, takes the cigarette out of his mouth, throw it on the floor and steps on it. All the men did nothing, including me." He missed the shot.



American death row is growing rapidly a decade after capital penalty was restored

By Fred Bayles
The Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — In the chilly midnight still, the state of Texas sent a lethal mix of poisons coursing through Michael Wayne Evans' veins.

Strapped to a specially designed table, Evans finished a brief statement and closed his eyes. "I'm sorry," he said, took several shallow breaths and died.

Evans died for brutal robbery-murder of a church pianist, a crime that took place a few months after Gary Gilmore's Jan. 17, 1977, death by firing squad ended a 10-year national moratorium on executions.

In the 10 years from Gilmore's controversial execution to Evan's quiet death in Dec., 66 men and one woman have been put to death.

The U.S. supreme court ruled in 1976 that states could restore the death penalty. The decision came a decade after the court had outlawed capital punishment.

In the years to come, death row is likely to become more entrenched, more routine and more efficient in the numbers it sends to the executioner.

Today, the U.S. death row population is four times as large as it was in 1977. Constitutional questions about capital punishment have become a body of law crowding court schedules.

Yet debate over the death penalty has quieted. Despite arguments about its fairness and effectiveness, 86 per cent of the people questioned in a new Media General-Associated Press poll favoured the death penalty.

Asked if the death penalty was appropriate for crimes other than murder, 47 per cent said yes, citing crimes such as rape, child molestation and drug dealing.

Even opponents believe capital punishment will remain the law of the land through the next generation.

"We live in a culture that is in a very bad mood," said Henry Schwarzschild, head of the American Civil Liberties Union's capital punishment project. "People no longer want the death penalty as an answer to crime and violence. They want it because they think the ...(murderer) should die."

Death row's population is booming: in 1977, 460 people were under death sentence; today, 1,838 await execution.

The rate of growth, an average of 250 new prisoners a year, shows no signs of slowing.

"It's a constant cause of concern," said Richard Dugger, outgoing warden of Florida state prison in Starke. "We're constantly displacing other inmates to make room for them."

The supreme court has issued some two dozen death penalty edicts in the past 10 years, making it one of the premier constitutional issues of the decade.

Lower courts are swamped with death row appeals. Recently retired U.S. appeals court Judge John Godbold estimated each death penalty case his court reviewed equalled 30 other cases in terms of time and effort.

"The law in this area is very complicated," he said. "As soon as you lay one issue to rest, something crops up in other areas."

But there are signs the legal steps to execution are quickening.

Ten years ago 60 per cent of death row inmates had sentences overturned or reduced. Today, it is down to 40 per cent.

Major constitutional issues used for appeals are becoming scarce as the supreme court rules on more and more cases.

"As the body of case law continues to grow, we lose some issues and that cuts off avenues to pursue," said Tanya Coke, director of Research for the Defence Fund of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

In a major case now before the supreme court, McCleskey vs. Kemp, attorneys allege a racial bias in capital punishment, claiming the murder of white victims is more likely to result in a death sentence than the killing of blacks.

If the court agrees, it could halt capital punishment in the United States.

If the court reject the argument, a major issue of appeal will disappear. Capital punishment opponents fear that would open a floodgate of executions.

Those fighting the death penalty have another problem. The rising number of cases and the high financial and emotional costs have created a shortage of attorneys willing to handle death row appeals. Since nearly all clients are indigent, attorneys must take on such appeals for free.

After some death row inmates in the state of Florida could not get representation, the state legislature last year created a state office of capital collateral representative to handle appeals.

A key supporter was Florida Attorney General Jim Smith, a death penalty supporter who argued the office was needed for Florida to continue executions.

The director of the new office, Larry Spaulding, said 10 staff attorneys averaged 80-hour weeks the first year to try to keep up with the death warrants.

"The problem is they gave us a 10-year backlog of cases," Spaulding said.

The hectic legal manoeuvring are far removed from those whose lives hang in the balance.

James "Doug" McCray has been on Florida's death row near 13 years for the rape and beating death of a 67-year-old woman. McCray once won a new trial, only to see the decision overturned.

Through years of legal battles, he has met only one of three attorneys who represented him. He said inmates often learn of their cases from television.

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Pele Cup gets under way with victory for Brazil

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Brazil, led by "soccer king" Pele, beat Italy 3-0 Sunday in the second game of the new Pele Cup tournament, organised for countries that have won the World Cup at least twice.

Under stormy skies, the soccer field soggy with water from heavy rains, soccer star Pele played before Brazilian crowds for the first time since 1974 and eager fans poured in to see him.

Earlier, West Germany and Argentina tied 1-1 in the opening game of the tourney with a sparse crowd watching in the Atlantic coffee port of Santos.

Argentina's Gonzalez, 39, scored the first goal of the game, heading the ball into the net in the 12th minute of the first half, while West Germany's Kremers, 37, tied the game with a neat shot in the last five minutes.

Brazil dominated the game against Italy.

Brazil's first point was made as Italian defenceman Lelli headed the ball into his team's net at 29 minutes in the first half.

Midfielder Rivelino headed the second goal into the net after a perfect pass from Marco Antonio 25 minutes into the second half and right wing Dario headed in a ball crossed to him by Teodoro at 36 minutes.

Some 60,000 Brazilians packed Sao Paulo's Pacaembu Stadium to capacity, cheering widly every time a Brazilian player touched the ball.

Pele, 46, had lost some of the speed and agility for which he was known when he led Brazil to victory in the World Cups of 1958, 1962 and 1970. But there were still flashes of his old brilliance.

At one point, Pele kicked the ball from the goal-keeper's hand after a failed attempt at the net and tried a bicycle kick back from the penalty area.

Despite the missed opportunity, the crowd went wild, chanting "Brazil, Brazil."

Before the game, Pele admitted he was nervous and predicted that emotions would run high with old friends and competitors playing together for the first time in years.

The Italian team showed a lack of coordination, a result of a strong Brazilian defence which stole many passes and chances to take shots on goal.

The tournament, played between all countries that have won the World Cup at least twice — although England was excluded — includes teams from Brazil, Uruguay, Italy, Argentina and West Germany.

Pele, who retired from international play in 1971 and from Brazilian competition in 1974, has been absent from playing fields since, except for a brief mid-70's stint in the United States trying to make soccer popular there.

In his retirement he has made movies, composed songs, dated the famous Brazilian Model Xuxa, travelled widely, made commercials for dozens of products and met world leaders.

The starting line-up for the Brazilian team was: Ado, Toninho, Jaime, Djalma Dias, Marco Antonio, Teodoro, Carpegiani, Rivelino, Cafuringa, Pele, and Edu.

Italy's starters were: Bordon, Maldera, Roversi, Cuccuredu, Faccheti, Marini, Sala, Beluci, Maraschi, Bonisegna and Poleti.

The starting line-up for Argentina was: Buttice, Cortez, Piris, Mouzo, Botaniz, Brindist, Berta (Babington), Gonzalez (Felman), Outes and Mas.

The starting line-up for West Germany was Kleff, Kremers, Zembski, Russmann, Webber, Koppel, Geye, Gerdorff, Breitner, Fischer, Held.

Kenyan team takes early lead in Paris-Dakar rally

EL GOLEA, Algeria (AP) — Kenyan rally veterans Shekar Mehta and Mike Doughty, driving one of the favoured Peugeot 205S, won the first desert stage of the Paris-Dakar Rally Sunday and moved to the top of the overall standings.

They covered the 159-mile stage from Gardhaia to Ouargla with 1 hour, 3 minutes and 16 seconds of penalty time, 3:16 ahead of the Mitsubishi Pajero of former winner Jean Da Silva of France.

British veterans Andrew Cowan and Johnstone Syer were third in another Pajero, 5:22 behind the leading Peugeot.

The stage, formally the third in the rally after the run from Paris, was designed to eliminate the poorly prepared and serve as a preview of what is facing more than 480 competitors in cars and trucks and on motorcycles before they arrive in Dakar on Jan. 22.

It included gravel and rock strewn tracks, sand dunes, mountain gorges, soft sand, a stretch demanding accurate navigation, and a high-speed finish.

Italian Andrea Balestrieri won the motorcycle section on a Honda with penalties of 2:27:21, beating Italian Franco Picco, 2:15 behind, and France's Serge Bacou, 3:43 behind, both on Yamahas.

Finnish journalist Tormo Jormakka was the first rider to be injured in Africa, suffering fractures to both knees in a fall.

Monday's stage is described by the organisers as "very long and difficult," covering 266 miles and ending near in Salah.

Leverkusen wins basketball title

LONDON (AP) — West German champion Leverkusen won the World Invitation Club Basketball men's title Sunday by beating South American titlist Monte Libano of Brazil 104-97 after overtime at Crystal Palace.

The Brazilians were holding on to an 86-84 lead when Leverkusen's Horst Schmitz forced overtime by running the full length of the court to score with a lay-up with one second to play.

In the extra period, John Johnson, a former England international who has a West German mother and moved to Leverkusen in 1984, scored with two three-point shots to open a 98-92 lead and the West Germans held on.

In other finals, Unimep of Brazil beat Sweden's Solna 106-83 to take the women's title and another Brazilian team, Continentale, captured the junior Men's Championship by beating Solna 97-74.

Solna also finished third in the men's competition.

Giants, Broncos reach conference championships

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Giants demolished the San Francisco 49ers 49-3 and the Denver Broncos beat the New England Patriots 22-17 to advance to the Conference Championship games.

The Giants and Broncos each need just one more victory to reach the Superbowl. New York will host the Washington Redskins at Giant Stadium next Sunday in the National Football Conference (NFC) Championship and Denver will meet the Browns in Cleveland to decide who will represent the American Football Conference (AFC) in the Superbowl.

The Giants' defensive unit played with the kind of tremendous intensity that made it the most feared defence in the league this season as it forced numerous turnovers and held the usually explosive 49er offence to just three points.

New York quarterback Phil Simms threw four touchdown passes and Joe Morris ran for another two as the Giants rolled up 49 points. They led 28-3 at the half and never let up, adding another 21 points in the second half.

The Giants knocked 49er quarterback Joe Montana out of the game with a concussion late in first half when he was hit hard by nose tackle Jim Burt. Montana was hit just as he released a pass that was picked off by all-star linebacker Lawrence Taylor, who returned it for 35-yards for a touchdown.

With the defending champion Chicago Bears and the two-time Superbowl champion 49ers out of the way, the 15-2 Giants must be considered the clear favourite to win it all this year.

In the AFC semifinal, Denver quarterback John Elway threw one touchdown pass and ran 25 yards for another to lead the Broncos into the championship.

The score was tied 10-10 at the half of the see-saw battle in which the lead changed hands six times after Denver opened the scoring with a field goal.

But on the final play of the third quarter, Elway threw a 48-yard touchdown bomb to Vance Johnson, who made a leaping catch and landed in the end zone, that put Denver ahead for good.

With the score 20-17 and less than two minutes left, Rulon Jones ended New England's chances of pulling out the game when he sacked Patriots' quarterback Tony Eason in his own end zone for a safety that ended the scoring at 22-17.

The winners of next week's Conference Championship games will meet in the Superbowl on Jan. 25 in Pasadena, California.

Arsenal beats Tottenham

LONDON (R) — Arsenal beat its north London rival Tottenham Hotspur 2-1 to re-establish a four-point lead in the English soccer standings.

The 100th league encounter between the two neighbours at Tottenham's White Hart Lane Stadium on Sunday was decided by three first half goals, as Arsenal controlled the first 45 minutes and then withstood a second half battering.

Watched by 37,723 fans in teeming rain, defender Tony Adams and midfielder Paul Davies scored the visitor's goals, while Tottenham's fullback, Mitchell Thomas, replied for the home side.

The match was viewed as a vital clue to the title race. Arsenal's standings lead was cut to one point by Everton on Saturday, and Tottenham looked set to mount its own challenge for the title. The result meant, however, that Tottenham remained in seventh place, 13 points behind its neighbour, which extended its unbeaten run to 19 games.

The first goal came in the sixth minute as Arsenal applied early pressure.

England international fullback Viv Anderson had a shot hacked off the line by Tottenham defender Danny Thomas, but when the home defence failed to complete the clearance, Anderson's England colleague, Kenny Sansom, set up the goal by pumping a centre back into the danger area.

The Tottenham defence claimed offside as Nial Quinn headed the centre down to Adams, who just beat Tottenham goalkeeper Ray Clemence to the ball.

The Tottenham defence was repeatedly stretched in the first half and teen-age midfielder David Rocastle had a shot pushed on to the post by Clemence before the second goal arrived five minutes before half time.

Another slick, four-man move carved open the Tottenham defence before Martin Hayes was tripped by Danny Thomas on the edge of the home side's penalty area. From the free kick, Davis fired the ball through the defensive wall past a motionless Clemence.

Two minutes before half time, the Arsenal defence was punished for a loss of concentration and when England midfielder Glenn Hoddle centred from the right, Mitchell Thomas arrived unmarked at the far post to lash the ball home.

Tottenham, with Argentinian international Osvaldo Ardiles in midfield in place of the injured England player, Steve Hodge, was repeatedly frustrated by Arsenal's offside trap. The menace of Clive Allen, the First Division's leading scorer with 28 goals, was snuffed out by Adams and David O'Leary at the heart of the well-organised Arsenal defence.

Tottenham rallied well in the second half, however, with Mitchell Thomas, Hoddle and Ardiles maintaining fierce pressure on the Arsenal defence.

Hoddle was narrowly off target with two shots and towards the end, Sansom cleared off his line from Tottenham's captain, Richard Gough.

Tottenham's substitute, Belgian international striker Nico Claesen, replaced Ardiles with 13 minutes remaining when Arsenal also sent on Graham Rix for Quinn.

Run out incident mars England, Pakistan match

PERTH, Australia (R) — A controversial run out involving Rameez Raja, two England fielders and Australian umpire Dick French, marred the Pakistan innings in Monday's warm-up game for Wednesday's final of the one-day tournament.

Pakistan scored 229 for five in its allotted 50 overs in the final first round game of the four-team tournament.

But the main talking point of the innings was the dismissal of Rameez in the 28th over, an incident which is unlikely to help relations between the two sides ahead of the final.

French called England captain Mike Gatting for a no-ball which Rameez hit straight to midwicket where Bill Athey completed a "catch."

The Pakistani apparently did not hear the no-ball called and after tucking his bat under his arm walked straight to the pavilion. Athey, seeing the batsman out of his ground, returned the ball to wicketkeeper Jack Richards, who broke the wicket and appealed for a run out.

Umpire French gave Rameez out despite law 38 (2) of the game which states: "If a no-ball has been called, the striker shall not be given run out unless he attempts to run."

Opener Shoaib Mohammad and Javed Miandad dominated proceedings with the bat.

Barcelona increases lead

MADRID, Spain (AP) — England's striker Gary Linekar scored two goals for Barcelona, a 3-1 winner over Sabadell in Sunday's 21st round of the Spanish Major League Soccer Championship, and increased its lead at the head of the standings over second placed, Real Madrid, to three points.

Real Madrid, reigning league champion, drew 2-2 with Zaragoza, reigning Spanish Cup champion.

Lineker, top scorer in the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, scored in the 31st and 62nd minutes. With these two goals Lineker has scored nine goals since he joined Barcelona at the start of the Spanish League season.

Lineker also put in a third goal, which was disallowed because a previous foul by his team mate, Welsh forward Mark Hughes.

Barcelona's third goal was by midfielder Ramon Caldere in the 74th.

Sabadell, last in the standings, was dominated clearly by the Catalonian team, playing at home before a crowd of 85,000.

Midfielder Miguel Angel Alonso scored the visiting team's only goal in the 85.

After this victory, Barcelona has 32 points, while Real Madrid has 29.

Zaragoza, playing at home before 45,000 spectators, drew with Real Madrid, that led the match 2-0, with goals by midfielder Miguel "Michel" Gonzalez in the 32nd and forward Emilio Butragueno in the 59th.

The Madrid team's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez did not score in this match but he continued to be top league scorer with 18 goals so far.

Zaragoza, reacted strongly and managed its two goals in three minutes, through midfielder Juan Antonio Senor in the 76th and defender Narciso Julia in the 79th.

Espanol of Barcelona continued third in the standings with 28 points after winning 1-0 Gijon on the latter's own grounds. The winning goal was scored by Danish midfielder John M. Lauridsen in the 12th minute.

Lindqvist, other seeds advance in NSW Open

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Ninth-seeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden defeated Eva Krapl of Switzerland 6-1, 7-6 Monday to advance to the second round of the $150,000 New South Wales Open women's tennis tournament.

Lindqvist was one of three seeded players to win on the opening day of the 56-draw Virginia Slims Series grass court event. The tournament, final grass court warm-up event for the Australian Open, continues through Sunday.

Britain's Jo Durie, the 12th seed, had to struggle for her 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 victory over 17-year-old Australian Michelle Jaggard, while 13th-seeded Australian Dianne Balestrat breezed past Gigi Fernandez of Puerto Rico 6-1, 7-6.

Gretchen rush of the United States had the only upset, ousting her 14th seeded compatriot Marianne Werdel 6-0, 6-4.

The top eight seeds, headed by Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia, were granted first round byes.

Former U.S. Open champion Mandlikova, who has applied for Australian citizenship, will face either Australian Elizabeth Smylie or Elna Reinach of South Africa on Wednesday.

Second-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States will meet British serve-and-volley specialist Sara Gomer in her second-round match after Gomer defeated Australian Amanda Dingwall 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

Balestrat, who won this event in 1978, gave one of the most impressive performances of the day in defeating Fernandez, winner of the recent Singapore Open.

Balestrat was given a wild-card entry into the tournament after deciding to play following her third-round loss in Brisbane

"I have been working very hard and I felt I played very well," the 30-year-old veteran said.

Yugoslav wins ski jumping

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AP) — Yugoslavia's Primoz Ulaga made two jumps of 109.5 metres each to snatch victory from Austrian favourite Ernst Vettori in World Cup ski jumping here Sunday.

Vettori led after the first heat with a 112-metre jump that equalled Pavel Ploc's 1985 course record on Innsbruck's Isel Mountain Run and drew cheers from the partisan Austrian crowd.

But Vettori managed only 102.5 metres on his second run and wound up third behind Norway's Hroar Stjernen, who sailed 108 and 109 metres on his two runs.

Fellow Norwegian Vegard Opaas was fourth with jumps of 110 and 106 metres.

Sunday's event was the third in the prestigious four-hills competition which continues on Tuesday in Bischofhofen, Austria.

The 222.6 points Vettori collected Sunday put him in the lead in the intermediate standings for the competition. The Austrian's total of 605.1 points is four points better than that of East Germany's Ulf Findeisen.

Kapil, Vengsarkar put India in charge of test

CUTTACK, India (R) — India was boosted by a punishing century stand between Kapil Dev and Dilip Vengsarkar, and then snapped up two Sri Lankan wickets cheaply, as it took charge of the third and final cricket test Monday.

Captain Kapil plundered 60 while the dependable Vengsarkar scored his test highest of 166, and the pair put on 111 for the sixth wicket in 25 overs. They lifted India from the overnight 224 for three to 400 all out.

Sri Lanka captured the last five wickets for 17 but its delight was tempered by losing openers Sidath Wettimuny and Ravi Ratnayeke before the close of the second day when it was 37 for two.

The touring team, who trail 1-0 in the series, was encouraged when medium-pacer Ratnayeke sent back Raman Lamba and Ravi Shastri before lunch, only for Kapil and Vengsarkar to put India in the ascendancy in their contrasting styles.

Vengsarkar, who took 15 minutes Monday morning to score the two runs needed to complete his 14th test century and second in successive tests, was even more obdurate after reaching three figures, while Kapil timed his strokes perfectly.

Kapil was bowled by Anurasri and Vengsarkar's chanceless innings containing 14 fours was ended when he was lbw to Ratnayeke.

Ratnayeke, moving the ball in the air and generating pace and lift, richly deserved his five for 85.

Canadians, Soviets brawl in junior hockey

PIESTANY, Czechoslovakia (AP) — The Canadian national team and the Soviet Union were disqualified from the world junior hockey tournament after a bench-clearing brawl in the second period of their game here Sunday.

Dennis McDonald, director of operations for the Canadian team and a technical director of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, said the decision was reached by officials of the International Ice Hockey Federation after a 35-minute meeting.

Canada was leading 4-2 at 13:53 of the second period when the melee erupted in the Canadian end.

Within moments, both benches cleared and, under IIHF rules, all players participating in a fight are automatically ejected from a game.

Canada, with a 4-1-1 record and nine points, needed to beat the Soviets by five goals to win the gold medal. The Soviet Union had a record of 2-3-1 and was out of the medal race.

Once the brawl began, the game officials — from Norway, Finland and Poland, appeared confused and eventually skated off the ice.

The decision to disqualify the Canadians and Soviets from the tournament gave Finland its first gold medal in the 11-year-old event.

Earlier in the day, Finland raised its record to 5-1-1 and 11 points by defeating Czechoslovakia 5-3.

In other action Sunday, Sweden blanked the United States 8-0 and Poland won its first game by defeating Switzerland 8-3.

Czechoslovakia was awarded the silver medal and Sweden, with a 4-2-1 record and nine points, took the bronze.

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— Arabic language courses for foreigners
— Computer courses
— Music courses (Piano, Guitar, German Flute, Clarinet...)
— Handicraft courses (flower making, silk painting, ceramics).

Registration will last until Thursday 8 January and the courses will start on Saturday 10 January 1987.

For more information please contact the library of the centre, telephone 636445.

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Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 675573
HELL CAMP
Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420
ALL THE WAY BOYS
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

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THE INVINCIBLE RAMBO
Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4780/90	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3770/80	Canadian dollars
	2.9230/40	West German marks
	2.1730/40	Dutch guilders
	1.6193/6203	Swiss francs
	40.03/06	Belgian francs
	6.3575/3625	French francs
	1340/1341	Italian lire
	158.70/80	Japanese yen
	6.7520/70	Swedish crowns
	7.3500/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.2830/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	399.20/399.70	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices rallied Monday afternoon in line with an initial 24-point rise on Wall Street and at 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down 0.9 point at 1,680.2 after a low of 1,676.0 at 1204 GMT and an opening high of 1,683.2.

After starting strongly, due mainly to short-covering after the Christmas and new year holiday break, prices fell back for a short period on the back of weaker sterling, dealers said.

Shares showed little reaction to a newspaper opinion poll at the weekend which showed Britain's ruling Conservative Party only one point ahead of the opposition Labour Party.

The MORI poll came in the wake of a recent Gallup survey which gave the Conservatives a much larger 8.5 point lead over Labour. British Telecom shed 3p to 213 on the prospect of re-nationalisation if Labour win the next election.

The market, although unsettled, has to a large extent shown little reaction to press speculation over the current Department of Trade investigation into the affairs of Guinness.

Guinness shares stood at a late 294, a net 6p lower on Friday's close.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Make sure that you are alert and wide awake to the opportunities around you. It's not time to present them for approval to those high in the office.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) A fine day for getting in touch with good friends and stating your aims. Personal happiness is important now.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Sit in the privacy of your study and make plans for the future with only your trusted advisers.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Contact persons with experience and find out how to make your personal life more rewarding and satisfying.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Anything of a political nature should be handled in a more up-to-date fashion. Be cautious.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be wide awake to new changes that can prove profitable to you. Get your work organized more intelligently.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If you use more modern methods, your daily routines will be easier to handle. Be happy with your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An outside partner can give you good suggestions that should be followed to your great advantage.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Add a worthwhile touch to whatever you are doing and this work becomes more valuable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get your talents working more efficiently and make a fine impression on another.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Give more attention to your home duties and please your family. Save personal wishes for later.

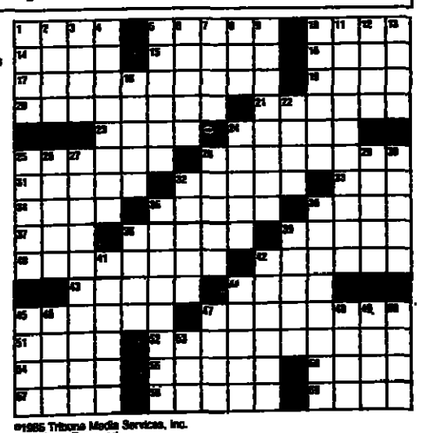
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study your correspondence from a different angle and get better results with it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Make new arrangements where finances are concerned. Don't permit an old-time friend to monopolize your time.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be eager for knowledge, especially that of a modern nature, and will get into all kinds of activities since there is an open mind here. There are many talents here, and a college education is wise to attain since there can be much success.

THE Daily Crossword

by I. Miller



ACROSS
1 Deprivation
5 Rounded lumps
10 From a distance
14 Director Kazan
15 Incur
16 Nev. city
17 Barely avoid defeat
19 — move on (hurry)
20 Impractical idealist
21 Freebooter
23 Day of the wk.
24 Gr. philosopher
25 —'s Folly
28 Ecstatic
31 Steep rocks
32 Bias
33 Auditor
34 Get one's dander up
35 Exactly
36 Begged
37 Slippery one
38 Chicago airport
39 Classic Western
40 Gauge
42 — of London
43 Some exams
44 Maley "sir"
45 Watch out!
47 Start
51 Betes or Aida
52 Alert
54 Island east of Java
55 "Peer Gynt" playwright
56 Common contraction
57 Building wings
58 Dens
59 Cell: comb. form

DOWN
1 Lascivious
2 Medley
3 Yodel or carol
4 Enemy agent's work
5 Marked
6 Crescent-shaped items
7 — about
8 Vehicle
9 School subject
10 Jargons
11 Hidden flaw
12 Poker stake
13 Crowd sound
18 — truly
22 Kiln
24 Carpenter's tool
25 Rock debris
26 Iroquoians
27 Like carpeting
28 Trumpet sound
29 Defeat
30 Takes on cargo
32 Petty disputes
35 Petroleum
36 Of speech sounds
38 Khayyam
39 Hits hard
41 Abadan natives
42 Light measures
44 Certain pigment
45 — in the woods
46 Isr. airline
47 "— fan tutte"
48 Inquisitive
49 Penny
50 R. noble family
53 Cavern' ora.

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

O	L	G	A		T	H	I	S		N	O	I	S	E
K	E	E	L		A	U	N	T		A	N	N	E	S
R	E	A	L		R	E	S	E	R	V	O	I	R	S
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			W	E	T		I	N	K		L	I	N	O
A	T	E		A	B	A	L			T	H	A		
D	R	J	E	K	Y	L	L		G	R	A	T	E	R
D	E	A	R	E	S	T		S	E	A	S	I	D	E
S	E	C	A	N	T		C	O	N	C	A	V	E	D
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USSR offers to launch Third World satellites

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said Monday that Moscow was prepared to launch satellites for Third World countries on preferential terms as part of its drive to enter the lucrative commercial space market.

Mr. Ryzhkov, interviewed by the official news agency TASS, also pledged full respect for the secrecy of Western technology employed in satellites to be put in orbit by the Soviet Union.

"As it enters the international market of space technology and services, the Soviet Union, of course, must reckon with the laws of the market," Mr. Ryzhkov said.

"It is only natural that we expect to make some gains. At the same time, we shall be seeking to make the launch terms mutually advantageous, both to us and to the clients," he noted.

"When orbiting spacecraft for developing countries, the Soviet Union is prepared to grant them substantial discounts," he added, saying that Moscow would insure the payloads.

Asked about possible objections over the transfer of Western space technology to the Soviet Union, Mr. Ryzhkov said foreign spacecraft would be exempted from customs inspection and could be moved to the launch site in sealed containers.

"Foreign specialists will be able to escort their spacecraft and watch it being transported and installed on a carrier rocket. It goes without saying that representatives of the client will be allowed into the cosmodrome," he said.

Mr. Ryzhkov said foreign devices could also be installed on Soviet spacecraft such as the Mir orbiting space station for scientific experimentation as part of a project for peaceful cooperation in space.

Moscow, which has demonstrated growing confidence in its space programme recently, set up a new trade body last year to handle orders for launching satellites for other countries.

In November, the Soviet Union offered to launch Thai communications satellites with full respect for any technological secrets involved. Moscow has also launched a series of Indian satellites in recent years.

Western analysts said the current Soviet drive to boost its participation in the commercial satellite market aimed to increase Moscow's hard currency earnings, which have fallen off due to the decline in world oil prices.

The analysts noted that the renewed offer came at a time when commercial satellite launches have been crippled by a series of setbacks in the U.S. and European space programmes.

Manila wants guarantees for expatriates in Mideast

MANILA (AP) — The Philippine government has announced new regulations governing the hiring of workers for jobs in Saudi Arabia to make sure Filipinos do not get stranded there in disputes with their employers.

The regulations, published Monday, require all prospective Saudi employers to submit corporate profiles of their companies to the Philippine ministry of labour and also verify the legality of any contracts.

Employment agencies which recruit Filipino workers must also submit letters of guarantee pledging that they will pay for the employees to return home and will secure exit visas for them if they lose their jobs or quit in labour disputes.

Recruiting agencies which fail to do so or renege on their guarantees will be barred from doing business in the Philippines, the government said.

More than 200,000 Filipinos are believed to be working in the Middle East in jobs ranging from engineers, doctors and nurses to domestics.

The new regulations follow widespread complaints that Middle Eastern employees fail to honour promises regarding salary and working conditions and that workers who quit or lose their jobs face difficulties returning home.

Mass resignations close Sri Lankan universities

COLOMBO (R) — Deans and department heads in all eight Sri Lankan universities resigned Monday over a wage dispute with the government, their union leader said.

As a result of the mass resignations, five universities due to reopen Monday for the new academic term remained closed.

Mr. Osmund Jayeratne, president of the University Teachers' Association, told reporters the other three would have difficulty remaining open because no one could run them.

He said about 80 deans and department heads in the eight universities had quit. Another 90 professors working as student counsellors and wardens had also resigned.

The union rejected a government offer to raise the academics' monthly cost of living allowances by up to 200 per cent and stuck to demands for a flat rate of 1,500 rupees ($52.6) from the present 300 rupees ($10.3).

It wanted the increase as an interim measure until April while the government addressed demands for a salary rise.

The union wants the minimum monthly salary of an assistant lecturer be raised to 2,550 rupees ($90) from 1,700 rupees ($60) and that of the most senior professor to 6,500 rupees ($228) from 4,525 rupees ($159).

Mr. Jayeratne said universities have had problems attracting good teaching talent because of the salaries.

Reagan seeks one thousand billion dollar budget for next fiscal year

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan Monday proposed the first one thousand billion dollar federal budget in U.S. history in a package for the 1988 financial year that is expected to encounter strong opposition in Congress.

President Reagan proposed $1,024 billion in government spending for the financial year beginning on Oct. 1.

Even though the package includes the smallest requested increases in defence spending since President Reagan took office in 1981, the budget could be completely revised by Congress and defence spending could be further cut.

The package also includes $42.4 billion in spending cuts and new revenues designed to meet a congressionally mandated $108 billion target for the 1988 financial year.

The administration projects revenues of $916.6 billion, leaving a deficit of $107.8 billion.

In a message to Congress accompanying the budget plan, President Reagan, who was undergoing prostate surgery Monday at a naval hospital near Washington, said the main goal of the package was to assure a steady reduction in the huge federal deficit.

"If this deficit is not brought under control by limiting government spending, we put in jeopardy all we have achieved," President Reagan said.

"Deficits brought on by continued high spending threaten the lower tax rates incorporated in tax reform and inhibit progress in our balance of trade," he noted.

The administration estimated that the deficit for the current financial year, which began last October, would reach $173.2 billion, far above the $144 billion target set by law and higher than earlier administration and congressional projections.

The 1988 budget total includes $312 billion for defence, an increase of three per cent above the inflation rate.

Because some of that money is to be spent in later years, actual 1988 military spending would be $297.6 billion.

Congress, controlled by Democrats who won control of the Senate from Reagan's Republicans in last November's elections, has made clear it would not approve major increases in defence spending.

The proposed spending level is significantly less than the defence department wanted.

Proposed spending increases for President Reagan's "Star Wars" space-based defence programme are expected to be sharply curtailed by Congress. A request for more funds for development of the MX missile is also expected to run into trouble.

To meet the deficit reduction target set by law, the administration proposed $18.7 billion in domestic spending cuts and $22.4 billion in new revenues. It also estimated that the government would save $1.3 billion because of lower interest costs for its borrowings.

In a major revision, President Reagan proposed slashing $24 billion from U.S. farm programme spending over a five-year period beginning in the 1988 financial year.

The budget proposes dropping a cap on direct payments to farmers and price support loans, closing loopholes in payment guidelines and removing incentives for production of major commodities.

In his budget message, President Reagan said his proposals would "solve the farm problems once and for all."

He said that present farm programmes, which cost $25.2 billion in the current financial year, require an enormous commitment of resources. "This situation is untenable and must be changed," the president said.

He proposed slashing spending for crop programmes to $20.96 billion in financial year 1988.

The new budget assumes that the U.S. economy will expand by 3.2 per cent above inflation between the last quarter in 1986 and the fourth quarter of 1987, as announced by the White House last month.

It also assumes that the gross national product (GNP), the total value of goods and services produced by the U.S. economy, will expand by 3.7 per cent from the final quarter of 1987 to the last three months of 1988.

The budget projects that inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), will be 3.8 per cent in 1987 and 3.6 per cent in 1988.

It projects unemployment at 6.5 per cent in 1987 and 6.2 per cent in 1988.

Democrats eye tax hikes

Meanwhile, leading U.S. Democrats said Congress probably will explore tax increases, including an oil import fee and a surcharge on imports, to help meet the government's legal requirement to cut the federal budget deficit.

Democratic leaders rejected President Reagan's plan to raise military spending and rely on spending cuts and sales of government assets to trim the U.S. budget deficit.

"You just can't go on indefinitely doubling the cost of military spending in five short years, reducing the revenues that come into the government by $135 billion a year and balance the budget," House of Representatives speaker-designate, Mr. James Wright of Texas said in a television interview Sunday night.

But White House budget chief, Mr. James Miller, said President Reagan would resist tax increases or cutting back on defence.

"He's not going along with a tax increase, he's not going along with a big cut in defence, he's not going to cut social security," Mr. Miller said in another television programme.

Mr. Miller urged Congress not to reject the president's budget proposals before giving them careful scrutiny.

"If the reaction of Congress is to dump on the president's budget... then I think we're going to have a scenario where we're going to see an adversarial process throughout the year," Mr. Miller said.

President Reagan weighed in on Saturday with his own verbal punches when he warned Congress "you can't have it both ways. You can't decry (budget) deficits and then pass budget-busting legislation."

Mr. Miller said the president's budget would narrow the deficit by $42 billion.

The administration proposes raising $23 billion in revenue through the sale of federal assets such as the Amtrak railroad and cutting $19 billion from government programmes, he said.

But House Budget Committee Chairman William Gray, Democrat of Pennsylvania, said the administration's budget was based on the unrealistic assumption that spending will outstrip revenues by only about $150 billion in the current fiscal year.

Most economists expect the deficit to total about $170 billion this year, Mr. Gray said.

That, he said, would mean the administration's $42 billion deficit reduction package would leave the budget shortfall far above $108 billion, which is the red ink target set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget balancing law.

"If you think you're going to get (to $108 billion) with smoke and mirrors, and by unrealistic assumptions by starting off with $150 billion, you're sadly mistaken," Mr. Gray told NBC television.

Mr. Gray said new revenues could be found without resorting to a hike in personal income taxes, by replacing existing U.S. quotas with import tariffs or by slapping a surcharge on imported products.

Asked to elaborate on an import surcharge, Mr. Gray said he was "simply saying that if you want to buy the Japanese Hitachi VCR (video cassette recorder), it's going to cost you $10 more."

Mr. Wright said it was possible Congress would explore placing a tax on petroleum imports.

"I think we need to do whatever is necessary to make our country more nearly energy independent," Mr. Wright said. "The United States cannot tolerate 50 per cent of our petroleum and energy resources being imported."

Senate Republican leader, Mr. Robert Dole, of Kansas, expected to be a presidential aspirant in 1988, distanced himself from President Reagan's budget.

Mr. Dole called the White House budget "a starting point," and said he doubted a majority of Republican senators would support President Reagan's efforts to bring the deficit into line with the Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing targets without raising taxes.

Mr. Miller was asked if the furore over the diversion of profits to Nicaraguan rebels from secret arms sales to Iran had impeded President Reagan's ability to formulate budget proposals.

Mr. Miller said he had noticed no difference this year in the president's participation in the budget process.

The scandal, Mr. Miller said, paradoxically could benefit President Reagan in his anticipated budget battle with Congress.

"A lot of people are critical of the president right now and may be looking for something to be less critical of the president about and maybe the budget would be the recipient of that," Mr. Miller said.

Representative charges hidden spending

On the other hand, a Democrat representative Sunday charged that the administration tried to hide $51 billion worth of defence spending in two recent budgets sent to Congress.

Mr. David Obey's complaint was based on a General Accounting Office review of the administration budget requests for fiscal years 1986 and 1987. The conclusions by the congressional watchdog agency were disputed by the Office of Management and Budget, which prepares the spending plan.

The dispute involves the so-called "current services budget," which shows what programmes and activities would cost if they were carried out during the upcoming year at the same level of activity as the current year.

But the complex budget process also involves exceptions to the current services budget, and the accounting office said the White House was taking advantage of those exceptions to hide increased defence spending.

The administration wants to include the estimated future costs of items such as weapons systems in the current services budget, while the accounting office believes only the cost of current activity should be included.

"This president, in an apparent attempt to conceal the amount of additional defence spending he was requesting in his budgets, has juggled the current service budget numbers to the point they are meaningless," Mr. Obey said.

According to the General Accounting Office, the current services defence budget for fiscal 1986 and 1987 show a $14.2 billion decrease in authorised military spending. But the accounting office said the correct figure should have been an increase of $36.9 billion.

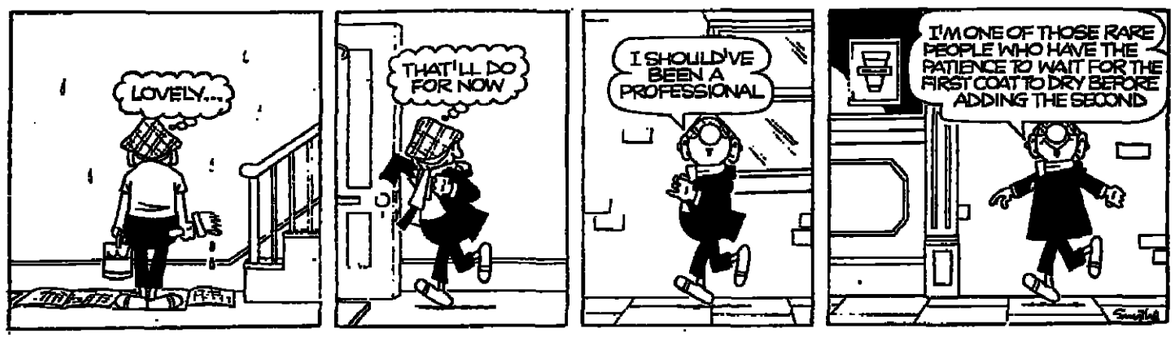
The difference between the two figures is $51.1 billion.

The report suggested that Congress should consider eliminating the requirement that a current services package be submitted as part of the budget request.

Peanuts

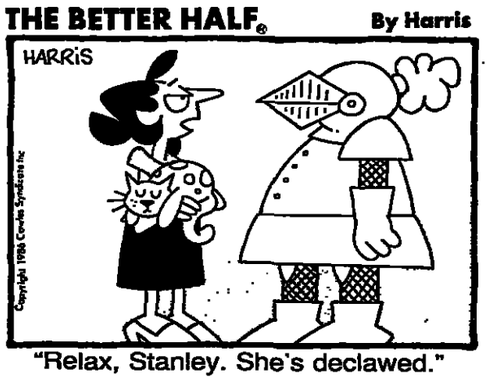
Mutt 'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF®

By Harris



"Relax, Stanley. She's declawed."

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IMNEC

CUPAN

KORSEM

SIMPOE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE "○○○○○○○-○○○○"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JERKY PUDGY WALNUT NINETY

Answer: What the sleazy restaurant that made those awful submarine sandwiches did— WENT UNDER

Solarz: U.S. will help defend Filipino democracy if talks fail

Militant workers protest removal of minister

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The United States will do everything it can to help defend democracy in the Philippines if peace talks with Communist rebels fail and fighting resumes, a senior U.S. congressman said Monday.

Democratic Representative Stephen Solarz, chairman of the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, said he hoped the ceasefire and talks beginning Tuesday between the government and the rebel National Democratic Front (NDF) will bring permanent peace to the former U.S. colony.

The 60-day ceasefire began on Dec. 10.

Mr. Solarz, speaking at a news conference at the end of a 12-day visit, said, "but if the ceasefire should break down, I think the United States will do everything it possibly can to help the government of the Philippines defend democracy from those who would attempt to assail it."

Mr. Solarz, who met with President Corazon Aquino and other Philippine officials, denied charges by Communist rebel leaders that Mrs. Aquino's government was getting instructions from U.S. officials like him on how to negotiate with the rebels who have been fighting for 18 years.

"I certainly don't think there has been any interference with respect to the peace talks," he said. "This matter is for Filipinos to resolve. The strategy being adopted by the government is ... not an American strategy, it's a Filipino strategy ..."

The congressman reiterated the U.S. government's support for the Philippine government.

"I think that if there is any single foreign policy issue on which there is genuinely bipartisan consensus both in the Congress and around the country, it is on the Philippines" since the February revolt that ended the 20-year rule of Ferdinand Marcos, he said.

"There are few countries in the world which at this particular time are more important to the United States politically, ideologically, strategically and economically than the Philippines," he said. The United States has two major military bases in the island nation.

The Philippine government on Sunday accused Communist rebels contradicting themselves in preparations for a second round of peace talks set to begin this week.

The government made the accusations in a statement issued in response to comments from the NDF on the government's proposed agenda for the talks.

Discussions will focus on rural development, industrialisation and amnesty for guerrilla fighters.

In its comments, the NDF said it could find "no common ground" with the government agenda. It also called unacceptable the government's insistence that concessions be in line with provisions of the draft constitution, scheduled for a ratification plebiscite Feb. 2.

In its agenda, the NDF called for a transitional government to implement any settlement. The government has rejected that demand.

"The NDF response contradicts itself," said the government statement, issued by negotiator Teofisto Guingona. "The NDF wants parameters but when the government sets parameters, they want specifics. When the government sets specifics to land reform and industrialisation, they want generalities."

Meanwhile hundreds of armed riot police blocked about 5,000 militant workers from marching on President Corazon Aquino's office Monday to protest the removal of Augusto Sanchez as labour minister.

Mr. Sanchez, whose ouster had been demanded by the military and business groups, stepped down effective Dec. 31. He was replaced by his deputy, Franklin Drilon, 41, a former corporate lawyer.

Members of the May 1st Movement (KMU), the country's largest and most militant labour group, marched from the Labour Ministry building through the heart of the city toward Mrs. Aquino's office at Malacanang Palace.

But 300 police and riot troops armed with plastic shields, rifles and nightsticks, blocked their advance at the Mendiola Bridge, more than 200 metres from the entrace to the presidential compound.

The militants began a rally at the bridge, and troops made no attempt to interfere.

A statement by the presidential press office said Mr. Drilon was sworn in by Mrs. Aquino earlier Monday.

During the march, KMU members handed out pamphlets praising Mr. Sanchez having been "loyal to the workers and to the principles of the country."

"He did not enrich himself in his position nor sell his principles like many in the government," the statement said. It calimed Mr. Sanchez was the "only remaining minister who fought for the workers and the little people."

Earlier, about 1,000 KMU activists rallied in front of the ministry headquarters. They erected banners there condemning Mr. Drilon as a "tool of capitalists" and urging Mrs. Aquino to retain Mr. Sanchez in the post.

Mr. Sanchez had been among the most controversial and left-leaning members of Mrs. Aquino's cabinet. He was an outspoken advocate of better pay and working conditions for Philippine labour, but was unpopular with the military and business groups.

Last month, the KMU cited the removal of Mr. Sanchez as an example of a "drift to the right" in the Aquino government. The labour federation has come out against ratification of the proposed new national constitution.

The proposed charter goes before the voters in a plebiscite on Feb. 2.

Following what the government said was an aborted coup by right-wing military officers last November, Mrs. Aquino asked for the resignation of all 25 cabinet members.

She immediately accepted the resignation of Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who had links to the alleged coup plotters. Later, she dropped two ministers and reassigned a third to a new post as special presidential adviser.

A government spokesman suggested Sunday that former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile ask himself why he was not as talkative under ex-President Marcos as he is now that Mrs. Aquino is president.

Presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno dismissed Mr. Enrile's criticisms of the Aquino government as a dictatorship, saying, "he has a right to do what he is doing ... He is living in a democracy."

"May be he should make an attempt to compare what he claims as a dictatorship with that of the ex-president, where he was not as loquacious as he is now," Mr. Bengino told reporters.

14 killed in U.S. train crash

BALTIMORE, Maryland (R) — Rescuers said Monday that 14 people were killed and 177 injured when a packed passenger train smashed into two freight engines near Baltimore at more than 160 kilometres per hour Sunday.

Lieutenant Daniel Kluge, a spokesman for the Baltimore County Emergency Operations, said rescuers were cutting into the two remaining cars of Amtrak's New York-bound "Colonial," including the dining coach, but no more survivors were expected to be found.

Most of the 177 injured were taken in fleets of ambulances to Baltimore area hospitals and at least nine critically injured people were flown by helicopter to a special shock-trauma unit in Baltimore.

Nearly 200 rescue workers cut, pierced and tore through the crumpled wreckage with cranes, bulldozers and torches during the night and called off their search for survivors early Monday, Lt. Kluge said.

Few officials and no journalists were allowed at the scene, 24 kilometres north of Baltimore.

Outgoing Maryland Governor Harry Hughes told reporters at the scene earlier that the accident was a "terrible, terrible tragedy."

Earlier, rescuers succeeded in freeing an unidentified woman from the twisted hulk of the third passenger car, but only after amputating one of her legs. The workers were unable to save her three-year-old son, who died pinned beside her.

Dr. Dan Morhain, regional medical director of the Baltimore metropolitan area's Emergency Medical Services, said he believed at least one passenger with a ruptured spleen owed his life to the swift rescue efforts.

1 killed, 8 hurt in new Karachi ethnic violence

KARACHI (R) — A man was stabbed to death and eight people were injured in a new outbreak of ethnic violence in Karachi, where 186 people died in communal rioting last month, police said Monday.

Troops were rushed to Liaquatabad, a volatile suburb of Pakistan's biggest city, after Sunday's incident and police used teargas to disperse angry crowds.

A group of young men from the Mohajir immigrant community dragged a bus driver out of his vehicle and stabbed him, before setting the vehicle on fire, the police said.

Doctors said the man was dead on arrival at hospital and a further eight people were treated for injuries from stabbings or stonings.

The disturbances spread to three other suburbs of the city of more than seven millions and a taxi, a car, three rickshaw cabs, and two mini-buses were set alight.

Witnesses said troops patrolled the riot-hit areas this morning, but no curfew was imposed.

An overnight curfew is still in force in Orangi town, scene of the worst violence in last month's riots between Mohajirs and Pashtuns originally from north-west Pakistan and neighbouring Afghanistan.

At the height of the trouble thousands of troops backed by naval units were enforcing an idefinite curfew in most of the cosmopolitan port city, but the restriction was gradually lifted as they restored order.

The latest outbreak of violence flared as the governor of Sind province, which includes Karachi, announced his resignation. Retired General Jehandad Khan was replaced by a U.S.-educated business leader, Ashraf Tabbani.

The provincial authorities were fiercely criticised for failing to prevent last month's widely-expected explosion and for being slow to react to it.

The provincial ministers resigned en masse last Thursday, but Chief Minister Ghous Ali Shah remained in office.

Some 300 Mohajir youths held a march Sunday from the court where the leader of the Mohajir Qaumi (national) Movement, Altaf Hussain, was making an appearance.

Police impose curfew on Indian town after clashes

NEW DELHI (R) — An indefinite curfew has been clamped on parts of Ahmedabad in western India after clashes between Hindus and Muslims, police said Monday.

They said more than 20 people were injured in stabbings and when police opened fire to disperse Hindus and Muslims who clashed in the old walled quarter of the city Sunday night.

The Hindustan Times newspaper said an indefinite curfew was clamped on the worst-hit areas of the city to prevent further fighting between the two communities, who are almost evenly divided among the 2.5 million population.

There were conflicting reports on the cause of the violence. One version blamed it on a quarrel which broke out between Hindu and Muslim groups taking part in the city's traditional sport of kite-flying.

Other sources said the trouble flared when a procession passing through the walled quarter was stoned.

Moscow offers AWACS to New Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — The Soviet Union has offered India Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) to counter the proposed supply of U.S.-made AWACS to Pakistan, but New Delhi may say no, an Indian news agency said Monday.

The United News of India (UNI) said the Indian Air Force was not in favour of the Soviet IL-76 tactical transport aircraft fitted with AWACS because it was not as sophisticated as the U.S. version.

The IL-76, codenamed, Mainstay by NATO, lacked several functions of the U.S. version, including the ability to pick out low-flying targets accurately, the news agency said.

UNI quoted unidentified defence experts as saying the Soviet offer could also be rejected because it would set back Indian efforts to produce its own AWACS version by 1990.

An Indian Defence Ministry spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

Reports of increased supplies of U.S-made arms, including AWACS, to Pakistan have raised tensions between India and Pakistan. The two countries have fought three wars against each other since gaining indepedence from Britain in 1947.

The UNI report was published two days after a senior Indian opposition leader, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, warned that Pakistan would use its U.S.-supplied weapons against India and not Afghanistan or the Soviet Union.

Mr. Vajpayee, Indian Foreign Minister from 1977 to 1979, said the Indian government should persuade Moscow to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, as its presence was giving the United States an excuse to supply arms to Pakistan.

Islamabad says it needs the U.S.-made weapons because of the presence of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan following Moscow's 1979 intervention there.

New Delhi has traditionally bought most of its arms from Moscow, but has also held talks recently on possible weapons purchases from Washington.

NASA begins burial of Challenger wreckage

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Nearly a year after the Challenger explosion that killed seven astronauts, NASA is burying the wreckage of the space shuttle.

Starting Monday, the wreckage is to be lowered by crane 90 feet (27 metres) underground into two abandoned Minuteman missile silos 3.2 kilometres down the beach from where the shuttle was launched on Jan. 28.

A pair of 4,530-kilogramme concrete caps will be placed over the silos, sealing nearly 125 tonnes of twisted metal in unmarked tombs. The burial is expected to take about two months.

Among the debris waiting to be hauled to the seaside site on flatbed trucks is Challenger's crew cabin, which survived the shuttle's breakup and tumbled nine miles before smashing into the Atlantic Ocean.

Other wreckage includes large sections of fuselage, one wing, the craft tail and more than 100 crates of rusted components.

"I have a hard time even going over and looking at the debris," said Air Force Lt.-Col. Edward O'Connor, who directed the exhaustive seven-month search for the wreckage. "It's been a painful process for everyone out here."

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) began looking for a place to store the debris almost as soon as the first pieces were fished from the ocean off Cape Canaveral by navy and coast guard ships a few hours after the explosion.

Those pieces and the barnacle-encrusted wreckage found later have been kept in a warehouse and makeshift hangar at Kennedy Space Centre. Experts analysed and catalogued every nut and bolt.

Col. O'Connor came up with the idea of putting the debris in the silos, which are located at neighbouring Cape Canaveral air force station and have stood empty since the Minuteman research programme ended in 1970.

Because the site is on a military base, it will be off limits to the public, officials said. There are no plans to put up a plaque marking the silos as Challenger's last resting place.

The task of cleaning the dank silos and storing the debris fell to about 15 NASA workers who view the burial as "just something that has to be done," said Project Director Elliot Kicklighter.

Much of the debris is to be stacked in equipment rooms from which it can be removed easily if engineers want to re-examine any part of it.

"Anything that anyone might need to be retrieved, they'll know where it's at," Kicklighter said.

Pieces that are too large to fit in the 12-foot (3.6 metre) diameter silos, such as the wing and sections of the external tank, will be cut up before burial.

Hurricane ravages Cook Islands' economy

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (AP) — An international relief operation got underway Monday to aid victims and restore services to the hurricane-ravaged Cook Islands.

Prime Minister Sir Tom Davis said the economy had been set back years by the storm.

Sir Davis said he would revise his South Pacific nation's long-term economic forecasts because of devastation caused by hurricane Sally, which roared across the island Saturday with 150 kph winds, triggering 10-metre waves.

Sir Davis estimated damage in excess of $25 million.

He said the storm virtually wiped out the country's cash crops of tropical fruits and vegetables and had destroyed 80 per cent of the buildings in Avarua, Rarotonga's waterfront administrative and commerical centre.

"A lot of government buildings have been destroyed," he said.

There were no reports of casualties in the island group, 3,000 kilometres north east of Auckland, New Zealand, although the situation in outlying islands was not known.

The hurricane blew out to sea on Sunday leaving an estimated 1,000 people homeless in Rarotonga, the largest of the Cook Islands, a self-governing territory in free association with New Zealand. Almost 18,000 people live in the far-reaching chain.

New Zealand responded to the crisis by flying in an air force Hercules transport plane with emergency supplies and a team of army engineers to help restore power and water supplies.

The United States, Britain, France and Australia also pledged immediate financial assistance.

Australia's Ansett Airlines flew a Boeing 767 to Rarotonga on Sunday to collect up to 500 Australian and New Zealand tourists but some visitors decided to stay to help in the cleanup, said airline spokeswoman Keira Louckyer.

New Zealander Rick Adams said that during the storm houses were demolished, the shopping centre destroyed and the hotel had coconuts flying through the roof. It was disastrous.

"There was mud, rocks and coral scattered through the whole town. It was completely wiped out," he said.

Waterfront Commission General Manager Ioane Iro said it would take at least $6.5 million to rebuild Rarotonga's only port, which was virtually destroyed by tidal waves.

Mr. Iro spoke to reporters as bulldozers began clearing corrugated iron warehouses twisted under the weight of tonnes of coral boulders swept onto the shore.

"I've never seen anything like," he said. "The harbour looked like a washing-machine. Boats were just simply lifted out of the water and onto the beach."

Australian Associated Press reported that the islands will have to rely on airborne supplies possibly for several weeks, although there are plans to offload cargo vessels out to sea and bring vital food and building supplies in by small boats.

The South Pacific hurricane season runs from October through March.

Colombo rejects Tamil rebel preconditions

COLOMBO (Agencies) — The Sri Lankan government Monday rejected preconditions set by Tamil separatist guerrillas on talks aimed at finding a solution to the island's bloody ethnic war.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said: "The government is not prepared for any talks with preconditions to solve the ethnic problem."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel group on Saturday demanded the release of 3,000 Tamils detained by the government before talks could start.

The LTTE is the largest of the five main groups fighting government troops to set up an independent state for minority Tamils in the north and east of the island.

The group's spokesman Anton Balasingham told reporters in the south Indian city of Madras that the Colombo government should also repeal the prevention of terrorism act, resettle refugees and abolish surveillance zones.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency quoted Balasingham as saying that even then there could be no direct negotiations with Colombo. The Indian government, which has been acting as mediator, would have to be involved, he said.

Sri Lankan state radio quoted Mr. Athulathmudali as saying the government was prepared to find a solution through discussions but not under the preconditions set by the LTTE.

"The conditions indicate unwillingness on the part of Tamils to reach a political settlement," he said.

More than 4,500 people have died in the conflict since widespread ethnic violence flared in 1983.

The government suspended supplies of petroleum products to Jaffna, the guerrilla stronghold in the north, on Friday after the LTTE threatened to start issuing licences for vehicles.

It was the first counter-move to the LTTE's plans to set up a parallel civil administration in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

An LTTE spokesman in Jaffna told Reuters last week it was also planning to run transport services, recruit traffic police, issue postage stamps and levy business turnover taxes.

The LTTE has rejected a government proposal to grant autonomy to the northern and eastern provinces through a system of provincial councils.

It is demanding a homeland for Tamils by a merger of the two regions.

Meanwhile President Junius Jayewardene says he remains committed to nonviolence but will not yield to Tamil terrorists who want to create a separate state in the northern part of his island nation.

In an interview in the Jan. 12 issue of Newsweek magazine, the 80-year-old president said, "my faith in nonviolence remains unchanged. But the separatists are neither nonviolent nor democratic.

"So when terrorism erupts, especially in a small country such as ours, what is a believer in nonviolence to do? Either I must give up in the face of these terrorist attacks or employ state violence."

Students burn newspapers, pledge support for Deng

PEKING (R) — Students at Peking University Monday burned copies of official newspapers, which they accused of malicious and inaccurate reporting, but pledged their support for China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

Several hundred students shouted and cheered as copies of the Peking Daily, the People's Daily and other papers went up in flames to the sound of firecrackers. Other students looked on from windows or from the top of nearby walls.

The main culprit in the eyes of the students was the Peking Daily. "It has printed malicious and distorted news about our protests," one law student said. "We hate it. Today's action is a symbol of what we think."

He and other students accused the press of protraying students as being against Socialism and the Communist Party. The students said the papers were trying to drive a wedge between students and the public.

In a stinging editorial Monday, the Peking Daily said claims by students that they supported Socialism and the leadership of the Communist Party were false.

"Their aim is to use the fake democracy of Capitalism to practise anarchism," the editorial said.

The paper quoted a 1980 speech by Mr. Deng in which he said demonstrations needed prior permission and illegal activities and publications were forbidden. Most student protests have not been approved.

It was the first time the media have quoted Mr. Deng in support of criticism of the students.

The law student said students still believed in and trusted the government.

"We think Deng could lead us and the whole people toward complete democracy in China. Our movement is to give democracy a hard push. Finally, the process of democracy should be pushed by our government," he said.

Investigators find arson behind Puerto Rican fire

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Investigators have concluded that a hotel fire that killed 96 people here on New Year's Eve was caused by arson, but there was no evidence the blaze was started by a bomb or other incendiary device.

Investigators announced their findings at a news conference Sunday beside the charred exterior wall of the hotel's gutted casino, as the death toll rose to 96.

The governor's press secretary, Danny Velez, said the additional victim was an American man who died of burns suffered in the fire which, in a matter of seconds, turned the casino of the Dupont Plaza Hotel into an inferno.

The fire killed some patrons where they sat at gaming tables and forced hundreds of others to flee, some jumping from windows and others climbing to the roof of the 22-storey luxury hotel, from where they were plucked by helicopters.

The findings were announced by Puerto Rican Attorney-General Hector Rivera Cruz.

Mr. Rivera said investigators were sure the blaze was deliberately set, but had been unable to find traces of a bomb, or other incendiary device, or to pinpoint blame.

Peruvian deputy saves children from bomb blast

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A congressman found a bomb in his childrens' bedroom and threw it out the window seconds before it exploded, but another blast slightly injured the legislator's wife, newspapers say.

The attack at the vacation home of Flavio Nunez of the ruling Aprista Party was among several weekend bombings blamed on leftist guerrillas in cities along Peru's northern coast, newspapers reported Sunday.

Mr. Nunez's wife, Gladys, a prosecuting attorney in the capital, was slightly injured by flying glass early Saturday when a small bomb was thrown into the bedroom of their home in the port of Pimentel, 720 kilometres north of Lima, the government newspaper La Cronica said.

Mr. Nunez, who was reading in another room, ran to the bedroom of his three children, ages 6 to 12. There he found a second small bomb and threw it out the window, where it exploded without causing serious damage, La Cronica said.

Newspaper reports said police blamed the attacks on insurgents, but neither of Peru's major rebel groups, the pro-Cuba Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement and the Maoist-inspired Shining Path, claimed responsibility.

Local police did not answer the phone Sunday.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A98 ♡AJ1073 ◇8 ♣KJ65
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	2 ♣	?	

What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠J10652 ♡Q9873 ◇7 ♣K6
The bidding has proceeded:

West	North	East	South
3 ◇	3NT	Pass	?

What action do you take?

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold.
♠QJ9 ♡75 ◇J1052 ♣A876
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♡	Dble	?	

What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K983 ♡KJ ◇A52 ♣Q983
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♡	3 ◇	3 NT	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠972 ♡94 ◇AK6 ♣KQ1052
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ◇	1 ♠	2 ♣	Pass
2 ◇	Pass	?	

What do you bid now?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ10542 ♡Q93 ◇85 ♣72
The bidding has proceeded:

North	East	South	West
1 ♡	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
1 NT	Pass	?	

What action do you take?

COLUMN

Elton John enters hospital for surgery

SYDNEY (R) — British rock star Elton John went into St. Vincent's Hospital here Monday for exploratory throat surgery. John, 40, who arrived in Sydney after watching the English cricket team play in a four-team tournament in Perth, told reporters it was too early to say whether his singing career would come to an end. "I'm a bit concerned about it, yes, but I don't know yet if I'll have to have an operation. That will be decided after tomorrow's biopsy," he said. Looking tired and drawn, John said he would not perform for at least a year. John collapsed on stage last month during a concert in Sydney at the end of a gruelling 200-performance world tour. He had also cancelled a concert in Perth. When he arrived from Perth this morning, John told reporters: "Who knows when I'll be singing again? But I've had four and a half years of it. So I'd planned to take a year off live work anyway." Well-wishers flooded John's hospital room with bouquets of flowers, his publicist said.

Hitler's book still selling well

LONDON (AP) — Adolf Hitler's political autobiography, Mein Kampf (my struggle), is earning royalties in Britain of £20,000 ($29,800) a year for the West German government, London's Daily Mail newspaper reported Monday. A paperback edition of the book by Germany's World War II leader is currently available, costing £14.95 ($22.27). There is renewed demand for the book, since commercial television began repeating last month an internationally acclaimed documentary serial on Hitler and the war, the World at War. "All the indications are that Hitler's tome will remain a nice little earner until the copyright runs out in 1995," the Daily Mail said. Hitler was 56 when he committed suicide in beleaguered Berlin in April 1945. His famous book explaining his ideas and ambitions for Germany was published in 1925 and after he came to power in 1933 every German family was expected to buy a copy.

King Juan Carlos turns 49

MADRID, Spain (AP) — King Juan Carlos celebrated his 49th birthday Monday, and the royal household said he had received hundreds of greetings from around the world. The king, who became head of state on Nov. 22, 1975, two days after the death of Gen. Francisco Franco, was born in Rome, Italy, on Jan. 5, 1938, during the exile of the royal Spanish family following the dethroning of his grandfather, King Alfonso XIII, by the republic in 1931. The king, the sources said, spent his birthday in private in his Zarzuela Palace accompanied by Queen Sofia, their three children and other relatives, including ex-King Constantine of Greece and his wife, Anne Marie.

New store sells spy paraphernalia

MIAMI (AP) — There's a new store where you can outfit yourself like super spy James Bond with the latest in counter-surveillance equipment, night-vision gear and anti-kidnapping and tracking devices. Spy Shops International Inc. opened, attracting about 30 customers. Owner John Demeter said a group of Israelis came from New York and several clients were from South America and Europe. Demeter, 40, was an international security consultant for more than 10 years. He said he decided to use his acquired expertise to help people worried about unstable conditions in the world and came up with the shop of security products. "People are worried about personal security and, lately, terrorists," the Canadian citizen said at the opening. He's got a hand-held stun gun, priced at $58, that can jolt an assailant with 70,000 volts of electricity. It's not to kill, he said, but to "just immobilise an attacker." Then there are telephone scramblers and eqipment designed to detect bugs, phone taps and wireless microphones. They go for thousands of dollars apiece. For corporate executives or statesman, there is a bullet-proof briefcase and an anti-kidnapping device with a transmitter that can be sewn into a belt or coat to track someone by air within a 40-kilometre range.